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Common Ground

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by Geoff Olson

Art or propaganda

In Lily Tomlin's Tony award-winning 1992 play, *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, Trudy the bag lady is convinced she's in contact with extraterrestrials. "We think so different. They find it hard to grasp some things that come easy to us, because they simply don't have our frame of reference." In one of her trances, Trudy gets into a discussion with her alien friends about the meaning of art. She shows them a can of Campbell's tomato soup, and says, "This is soup." Then she shows them a picture of Andy Warhol's painting of a can of Campbell's tomato soup, and says, "This is art."

When it comes to defining art, we're as lost as Trudy's space chums. We may instinctively recognize art when we see or hear it, but find it hard to agree on what's "good" and what's "bad." One person's Mondrian is another person's manure. But if "reality is nuthin' but a collective hunch," as Trudy concludes, how far are we going to get in figuring out "art?"

There is one kind of art that most of us would agree is bad: the art of the nasty, old, totalitarian regimes. Several years ago while visiting Budapest, I took in Szboropark, (Statue Park), a resting place for huge, pre-Glasnost monuments. It's a kind of theme park for the death of communism. On a cloudy spring day, I stood on the windswept plain of Szoborpark, surrounded by 42 mammoth figures of Lenin, Marx et al. Concrete workers with raised fists looked to the horizon, accompanied by steel-frame, ramrod-straight soldiers. The figures, along with their leaders, appeared ready to march off in every direction. A souvenir stall nearby played revolutionary era music and offered "McLenin" T-shirts and aluminum cans containing "the last breath of communism."

Back in '89, the Hungarians refrained from smashing the statues to pieces after their comrades in East Berlin reduced the Wall to rubble. Instead, they plucked the figures from their plinths and stored them away. Historian László Szörényi proposed the construction of a museum to house them, but local councils rejected this proposal. Eventually, they agreed on building a park for their display, on a grassy site 15 kilometres outside of Budapest. Although there was an effort in the tourist literature to dispel the idea that it was a "joke" park, it's undeniable that some of the best examples of bad sculpture – of the most rabidly-ideological kind – were on display at Szboropark. The scale of the statues, some as high as 40 feet, was worthy of the central planning mindset. But I noticed that many of them were anatomically incorrect: the shoulders weren't set right and the legs launched off the bodies at weird angles. Perhaps this indicated some artistic resistance, a minor protest by artists against regimes that had channelled their talents into sculptural boilerplate. Perhaps they had subversively worked cubistic effects into their social realism, in spite of the official communist stance against modern art. Whatever the explanation, the bodies under these plate-like suits and trousers were as unwieldy as the ideology that had fashioned them.

Oddly enough, memories of Szboropark bounced around in my head during a recent visit to downtown Vancouver, when I got a close look at the Vancouver 2010 Countdown Clock, located across from the Vancouver Art Gallery. Fashioned by Omega, the official timekeeper for The Vancouver/Whistler Winter Games, this wedge-like construction stands more than six metres high and three metres wide and weighs over 2,600 pounds. Two electronic displays count

down the time, to the second, remaining until the Games' opening ceremonies.

Designed to withstand the predictable assaults from protestors, this spray paint-resistant monolith has an oddly anachronistic look, like something designed in the seventies by bell bottom-wearing futurists. It's easy to imagine it as an upright sarcophagus for Mike Myer's Dr. Evil, a nuclear device from *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* or something excreted by a 300-foot, Fisher-Price robot. The redundant purpose of this monstrosity is to count down to the 2010 Games, as if Vancouverites are so shaky with excitement we can't consult our own calendars. Amazingly, the thing doesn't even live up to its nominal purpose: on a sunny day, the cyan, digital readout is a little hard to make out on the reflective turquoise surface.

The wedge-like appearance of the countdown clock "quotes" from the other Olympic design misfire: the blocky figure representing the 2010 games that goes by the name "Ilanaaq." According to the official website for the 2010 games, "The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games emblem is a contemporary interpretation of the inukshuk. It is called Ilanaaq, which is the Inuktitut word for friend."

An artistic sensibility that has forgotten, or even negates, its source in the sacred often results in work as empty as the eye sockets of a three-story Stalin. Is this one reason why so much of North American cultural output these days is as forgettable as a disposable razor?

An "international judging panel" chose the emblem from "… more than 1,600 entries from every region in Canada." The design, submitted by a Vancouver communications firm, was unveiled with great hoopla in a Pythonesque stage ceremony last year. As dancers leapt about and flashpots went off, the segments of the inukshuk fell into place, in a government-subsidized anticlimax. The public response was a collective, "Huh?" Not only did this stiff, blocky figure fail to conjure up the image of athletes in motion, it was geographically incorrect. Natives indigenous to the West Coast don't create inukshuks. Critics immediately seized upon the design's many flaws, describing the emblem as "Gumby with a rocket launcher."

If Szboropark's huge, clumsy statues accurately reflect the spirit of central programming, the 2010 Games' Legoland designs sum up a more recent, top-down phenomenon: how western cultural output is increasingly the tool of advertising and public relations, media monopolies and publically-subsidized spectacles like the Olympic Games. This is art and design by hyper-capitalism. What totalitarian art shares with hyper-capitalist art is a top-down, horse-by-committee sensibility. In both cases, bureaucratic conservatism and ideological correctness ensure that the approved art is scrubbed free of any personal feel. You are left not with art, but with an argument: a thinly-veiled proclamation of who's in charge, whether it's summed up in a statue of a dictator, a civic mega-project or a sport mascot's celebration of electronic global capital. As Trudy the bag lady might say, it's soup pretending to be art.

You could stand for hours in front of a hyper-capitalist piece of art and not feel a thing. That's probably a good thing from the perspective of the sponsors, who don't want to risk offending anyone – the perennial risk of any viscer-

ally-real art. Perhaps this offers a clue to what "true art" is all about. Does it produce a bodily change, however small, in the witness? Does it alter the breathing or the galvanic skin response? Does it dilate the pupils or produce tears? Is there an audible wow factor?

If totalitarian and hyper-capitalist art represent the spiritually-bogus side of culture, perhaps the subterranean, soul-activating art – the art that actually moves us – represents the real thing. It's like Zirconium versus diamond. We recognize this kind of art right away because it gives us a shiver or a start.

At the close of *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, Trudy's space chums bid her adieu. "We have [been] ordered to go to a higher bio-vibrational plane. Just wanted you to know, the neurochemical imprints of our cardiocortical experiences here on earth will remain with us always, but what we take with us into space that we cherish the most is 'goose bump' experience." Trudy's extraterrestrial friends wisely link the goose bump experience to the human appreciation of art.

According to Merriam Webster, goose bumps are "a roughness of the skin produced by erection of its papillae especially from cold, fear or a sudden feeling

of excitement." When a person is cold or experiences strong emotions such as fear or awe, the autonomic nervous system produces the fleshy bumps that raise body hairs. This is known as horripilation, piloerection or the pilomotor reflex. It occurs not only in humans, but also in many other mammals.

Trudy's extraterrestrial friends quite enjoy the pilomotor reflex, it turns out. As we all know, beauty-driven goose bumps feel pretty good. A piece of music, a theatrical performance, a film, architecture, even a photograph may set off a "Wow!" response. As our skin stipples, a subtle tingle travels along the body's meridian points and we are swept up in a wave of awe mixed with reverence.

This sort of feeling of awe or reverence, although rare, is commonly refereed to as "numinous," a Latin term coined by German theologian Rudolf Otto to describe that which is *wholly other*. According to Wikipedia, it is part and parcel of belief in deities, the supernatural, the sacred, the holy and the transcendent. "Otto formed the word numinous from numen, in a manner analogous to the derivation of *ominous* from *omen*."

So why would awe, fear and cold and a near-religious experience with a piece of music or other art all produce a similar physiological response in human beings? Perhaps there is some neural crossover with a spillover of signals in ancient parts of the brain. Or perhaps it indicates an ambivalence of the "skin-encapsulated ego" to a phenomenon that shatters our conceptual boundaries. The experienced shiver can be pleasant or unpleasant, depending on the nature of the experience.

There is a clue, perhaps, in the earliest-known examples of representational art. In Graham Hancock's recent book *Supernatural*, the author examines the latest scholarship on the famous, prehistoric cave paintings of Altamira in Spain and Lascaux in the south of France. The

ochre and charcoal renderings include pictures of chimerical beings, half-human, half-animal. Hancock argues convincingly that the purpose of the cave paintings was to enter into imaginative association with the spirit world. Art has shamanic roots, he suggests, a claim that is supported by a great number of anthropologists and art historians.

This is an ironic assessment of the original purpose of representational art, considering where we're at today. For respectable, secular-minded artists, the idea of any world beyond this one is a convenient fiction cooked up by superstitious cultures. They may pay lip service to such quaint notions through cleverly referencing ancient myths in paintings, poetry and prose, but it is mostly an intellectual exercise, far removed from first-hand experience.

Not surprisingly, an artistic sensibility that has forgotten, or even negates, its source in the sacred often results in work as empty as the eye sockets of a three-story Stalin. Is this one reason why so much of North American cultural output these days is as forgettable as a disposable razor? Whether you're puzzling over a heap of bricks in a civic museum or picking through the gross-out comedies at your local Blockbuster, you're in the twilight zone of empty cultural constructions. And how does a culture fill a spiritual hole with artsy head games, subsidized shell games, psychic violence, infantile distractions and corporate fairy tales? Quite simply, it can't.

Luckily, plenty of living artists are working against this century-long, retrograde trend. Beauty of any variety has had a tough time, but it still finds its way into our galleries, concert halls and movie theatres. And every once in a while, thanks to committed artists who have mastered a technique or discipline, we get tantalizing glimpses of something bigger.

As Keats insisted, "Beauty is truth, truth beauty." We may be thrilling to a passage of music, grokking a piece of art or architecture or losing ourselves in a theatrical performance, and suddenly something grabs us by the hairs of the neck. Call it the oversoul, the body-mind, or what you will; something inside us resonates like a plucked string to a beautiful truth. Some part of ourselves momentarily awakens to a memory we can't even place.

Still, "art" as a cultural phenomenon is too mercurial to be contained by definitions, including my own. I wish things were that simple. But after trying to fashion a net to catch "art," I realize the big one has gotten away on me.

For example, through the creative use of spotlights and architecture, Hitler's architect Albert Speer hit an archetypal sweet spot among Germans with his massive Nazi rallies. These rallies, attended by thousands of awestruck Germans, and recorded by the talented filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl, played no small part in manipulating Hitler's audience. These were, by all accounts, beautiful, soul-stirring events. Similarly, the horrors of the Inquisition were inspired by the same faith responsible for the magnificent interiors of Gothic cathedrals. The more things change, the more they stay the same; check out the chilling 2006 film *Jesus Camp*, where fundamentalist

adults send young children into ecstatic trances through the clever use of music, chants and oratory.

As for the blocky figures at Szoboropark, I'm sure they once struck a transcendent chord in many observers. Across Russia and the East Block, the original revolutionary impulse was fed, in no small part, by a heartfelt belief that people could collectively rise above class and income extremes. To confuse matters further, some of the greatest graphic art ever conceived dates from pre-Stalin, Eastern Bloc revolutionary posters. Only later, when Bolshevism hardened into orthodoxy, did the art become clumsy propaganda.

As real as the wow factor is, we still need that small doubting voice inside to ask who or what is served by our lofty feelings. So, in the end, I have no answers for what "art" is or even what it should be. I conclude in that demilitarized zone between skepticism and faith. Words fail me. Instead, I leave you with the wise words of Lily Tomlin and her scriptwriting partner Jane Wagner, describing Trudy the bag lady's last night with her extraterrestrial friends:

"Did I tell you what happened at the play? We were at the back of the theatre, standing there in the dark; all of a sudden I feel one of 'em tug my sleeve, and whisper, 'Trudy, look.' I said, Yeah, goose bumps. You definitely got goose bumps. You really like the play that much?' They said it wasn't the play that gave 'em goose bumps, it was the audience.

I forgot to tell 'em to watch the play; they'd been watching the audience!

Yeah, to see a group of strangers sitting together in the dark, laughing and crying about the same things. . . that just knocked 'em out.

They said, 'Trudy, the play was soup… the audience… art.'

So they're taking goose bumps home with 'em. Goose bumps! Quite a souvenir. I like to think of them out there in the dark, watching us. Sometimes we'll do something and they'll laugh. Sometimes we'll do something and they'll cry. And maybe one day we'll do something so magnificent, everyone in the universe will get goose bumps."

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Images: Vancouver 2010 Olympic Countdown Clock *by Omega,* Stalin statue *photo by Tavallai,* Lascaux cave painting, Corporate Lenin *photo-collage by Kris Kozak, photos by Kuzma, Graham Prentice, Volodymyr Kyrylyuk.*

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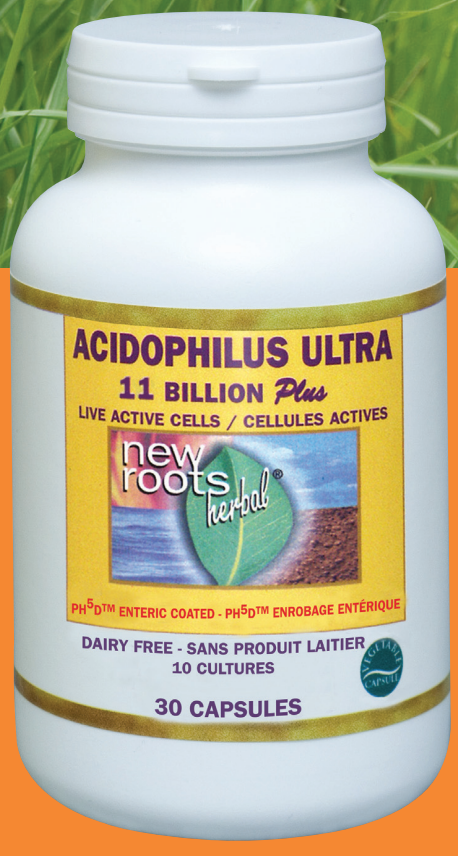

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Is the pharmaceutical industry immoral, dishonest, corrupt?

DRUG BUST *Alan Cassels*

It's amazing what gets dredged up and put into the public record. Hansard is the official written record of verbal jousting by our parliamentarians and it contains some absolute gems.

Earlier this year, on February 2 to be exact, in the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Liberal MLA Ralph Sultan from West-Vancouver Capilano asked a senior member of the BC Ministry of Health if it is true that the ministry sponsored a conference in which "… some rather colourful language was used to describe the pattern of behaviour one observes in the pharmaceutical industry – namely 'immoral, dishonest and corrupt?'" He went on to probe the official to find out if he endorsed these rather negative views.

The health official's answer is not that interesting. He merely stated the obvious: that, speakers at health conferences sponsored by BC universities are not censored by the Ministry of Health. What is interesting is the fact that the question even got asked in the legislature in the first place. But there it is, standing there in all its public glory, a bold and stark question: Is the pharmaceutical industry immoral, dishonest and corrupt?

How should one approach that one? Hmm. Let's start by reframing that question in research terms: Is there any convincing evidence to suggest that the pharmaceutical industry acts in an immoral, dishonest and corrupt fashion? If so, what is the nature of this evidence? How strong is it? What evidence is there to disprove this thesis? And so on.

As for countering evidence, there is ample evidence of good works by the pharmaceutical industry. It is undeniable that some products produced by drug companies work for the benefit of humanity, relieving pain and suffering and so on, and that the philanthropic work by groups sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry often makes drugs available to the poor. And there are clearly many ethical people within the pharmaceutical industry trying to do what is right. The evidence for this is undeniable.

But what about the dark side – the allegations of corruption, dishonesty and immorality in the industry? Where should we start? How about looking at the literature around the industry's record? A somewhat dated, but solid, look at drug industry lawlessness can be found in John Braithwaite's book *Corporate Crime in the Pharmaceutical Industry (*1984). Braithwaite pulls no punches in saying, "Every scholar who has surveyed the comparative evidence on bribery in international trade has concluded that pharmaceuticals is one of the most corrupt, if not the most corrupt, of industries.

My own research found evidence of substantial bribery by 19 of the 20 largest American pharmaceutical companies. There is evidence of bribes being paid to every type of government official who could conceivably affect the interests of pharmaceutical companies: bribes to cabinet ministers to get drugs approved for marketing, bribes to social security bureaucrats who fix prices for subsidized drugs, to health inspectors who check pharmaceutical manufacturing plants and to customs officials, hospital administrators, tax assessors, political parties and others."

Those are pretty strong words, but are there any more recent charges we can find that underpin those assertions?

Exhibit A has to be the largest fine ever paid by a drug company. In May 2004, Pfizer pleaded guilty in a US federal court to criminal fraud charges for the unlawful promotion and marketing of Neurontin, a drug for epilepsy that was marketed for almost everything, including pain and psychiatric illnesses. Pfizer, which inherited the drug when it bought Warner-Lambert, paid $430 million in settlement, the largest fine ever paid to date.

The May 2004 press release issued by the Office of the Attorney General of California said that the Neurontin settlement was a penalty to "resolve fraud, deceptive marketing and kickback allegations." A drug company cannot legally promote a drug for a use that the regulator has not approved. Basically, if your drug is approved to treat A, B and C, you can't then tell doctors it is also good for X, Y and Z. That's very illegal. But that's what appears to have happened between 1995 and 2002, when Pfizer and Warner Lambert engaged in a massive and deliberate program designed to get doctors to prescribe Neurontin for all kinds of unapproved uses, without the relevant safety and efficacy data being in place, thus exposing patients to harm.

Did that stop other pharmaceutical companies from promoting drugs beyond their approved uses in the future? No way. Some say the $430 million settlement payment was a wimpy slap on the wrist, given the loot the company raked in on the drug was estimated to be as high as $2.7 billion per year. It pays to market drugs off-label, even if you get caught. One physician friend of mine reckons that 30 percent, or about one third of all prescriptions written, is for off-label or unapproved uses. Is this true? I have no idea, but what I do know is that given the economics of getting caught, it makes sense to do what is profitable and go ahead because the drug might be good for X, Y and Z.!

Just this year, another pharmaceutical company, Schering-Plough Corp, was caught promoting two drugs for unapproved uses in cancer patients and got hit with a $435 million shot to the books. Are these the only examples? No, not at all. The list seems endless.

Another mondo drug company, AstraZeneca, was convicted of felony charges in June 2003, pleading guilty to charges of healthcare fraud. It paid $355 million to settle criminal and civil accusations that it engaged in a nationwide scheme to illegally market a prostate cancer drug.

Over the past 10 years in the US, some of the biggest names in the business, Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Eli Lilly have been targeted by federal prosecutors for marketing their products illegally and they have had to pay hefty fines. In April, the *Associated Press* reported that, "… since 1997, when the Justice Department began receiving funding earmarked for fighting health care fraud, the federal government has collected $11.87 billion in fines for various violations." You read that correctly. That was billion, not million.

Drug company associations maintain codes of conduct, but it is useful to look at the way the associations deal with their own members' dishonest conduct.

continued on p. 19

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Stir-fries for he-men

NUTRISPEAK *Vesanto Melina MS, RD*

I was recently invited, as a food and nutrition expert, to spend an evening with a men's group. These charming guys had gathered their questions about nutrition and wanted to learn a few cooking tips. For openers, they raised their most burning question: Can certain foods increase a fellow's stamina and vitality?

The answer is somewhat less exotic than the question. The same dietary shift that reduces risk of colon cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes can help a guy retain his manly vigour into old age. The diet that keeps the arteries to the heart clear has the same effect on arteries that supply nutrients and oxygen to the genitalia. (For more information, check out *Senior Fitness* by Ruth Heidrich, www.ruthheidrich.com). That dietary shift, simply put, involves eating more vegetables. Yet if a fellow grew up in a home where veggies were boiled to an unappetizing mush, chronic disease may have greater appeal than eating dreary vegetables.

What's the solution? Develop a new attitude to veggies. Learn to prepare them in new ways. Guys are legendary for their barbecue skills; it's time to turn that expertise to stir-frying.

Stir-fry pointers

I learned the value of the recipe below when I first shared its secrets with my partner, Cam Doré, a man who likes healthy eating but who has almost no kitchen experience. This introduction allowed him to roam supermarket produce aisles with a sense of confidence and adventure. For starters:

• The item that will most increase your enjoyment and efficiency in the kitchen is a comfortable-feeling, eight-inch chef knife. Also get a small paring knife and a cutting board. Plastic boards are more easily cleaned while wood is a pleasure to work on.

• Chop stir-fry veggies to about bite-size. Broccoli florets are about two inches long and may be halved. Peeled broccoli stems can be cut into strips and added.

• Measurements below are approximate and amounts provided are for a large stir-fry.

• To begin, cook onion in a little oil until it begins to brown; its sweetness will develop and the starches will become sugar. Next, add denser vegetables such as carrots and cauliflower. Add the lightest vegetables, such as bok choy, at the end.

• A tiny amount of toasted sesame oil provides exotic aroma and flavour.

• Liquid seasonings, such as orange ginger sauce and tamari, are added at the end because they lower the temperature. If added early, they change the texture of the vegetables from tender-crisp to a soggier, steamed texture. Oil can be heated to above 100˚ C, whereas, once a watery sauce is added, the temperature cannot rise above boiling point, when water turns to steam and steams the vegetables.

Stir-fries for he-men

A stir-fry makes a great standby. The process is fun and you can create your masterpiece alone or in company. The possibilities are limitless. The combination below is a suggestion; add or delete ingredients according to your preference or what you have on hand.

2 tbsp olive oil or other vegetable oil
2 red or white onions, sliced
2-4 medium carrots, sliced
2 cups cauliflower florets
2 cups broccoli
1 or more tsp minced or grated ginger (optional)
½ tsp toasted sesame oil (optional)
1 cup chickpeas, cubed, firm tofu or veggie "chicken"
1 cup sliced red, yellow or green peppers
1 cup sliced mushrooms
1 cup trimmed snow peas or peas in the pod
1 cup mung bean sprouts
1 cup sliced bok choy or baby bok choy
tamari soy sauce (to taste)
orange ginger sauce or other stir-fry sauce (to taste)
¼ -1 cup cashew nuts.

In a wok or large frying pan, cook onion in oil over medium heat until it begins to brown. Add carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, ginger and sesame oil (if used) and cook until almost tender-crisp. Add chickpeas, tofu or veggie "chicken" and warm through. Add lighter vegetables: peppers, mushrooms, pea pods, sprouts and bok choy. Add liquid seasonings to taste and top with cashews. Serve with cooked brown or white rice.

Vesanto Melina, is a registered dietitian in Langley BC and co-author of seven food and nutrition classics. She regularly consults for people who wish to improve their health or for those in dietary transition, www.nutrispeak.com, vesanto@nutrispeak.com, 604-882-6782.

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Why 9/11 is relevant to Canadians

by Drew Noftle

Some might say that 9/11 has changed Canada's foreign policies in such a way that Canada is no longer regarded on the world stage as a peace-loving country, but a country willing to use its military preemptively based on nothing more than the trust we hold in the word of our southern neighbour.

Not only are we participating in the NATO occupation of Afghanistan, but we are also supplying the British and American troops in Iraq with their most deadly weapon - munitions made from Canadian mined depleted uranium.

Already, millions of Canadians do not support our war effort. But what if the official story of 9/11 was a lie? What if 9/11, as the evidence now suggests, was a self inflicted wound? How many of us would /then /support the War on Terror?

The last six months have seen a massive resurgence of interest in 9/11, and the official story of what really happened that day is being attacked on all fronts. Groups denouncing the official story have popped up all over North America. Organizations such as the Journal of 9/11 Studies, Scholars for 9/11 Truth, Pilots for 9/11 Truth, and Veterans for 9/11 Truth – are all composed of well respected people from all walks of life who share a common goal of exposing the truth behind 9/11, and ending this so called "War on Terror".

In Canada, a network of "9/11 Truth Groups" has spread like wildfire. Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Victoria, and even the Kootenays have formed coalitions dedicated to showing us all that the official story does not stand up. They question why the Canadian government is trying to give up our peace loving position on the world stage in exchange for an unwanted and unasked for façade of national security.

One of the most active groups today, is the Vancouver 9/11 Truth Society. Last month they brought Dr. David Ray Griffin to Vancouver to speak at St. Andrew's Wesley Church about his new book /Debunking 9/11 Debunking/. In his lecture "Let's Get Empirical", Dr. Griffin told us how "The evidence that 9/11 was an inside job is overwhelming. Most people who examine it with an open mind, find it convincing."

The packed crowd of about 900 people gave him a standing ovation, and left with a new sense of optimism for the outcome of the 9/11 truth movement.

This month, the Vancouver 9/11 Truth Society will be hosting yet another event. This time, a three day International conference focusing not only on 9/11, but also the changes that have happened in Canada since 9/11, and what we – as Canadians – can do to return Canada to the foundational spirit of our nation: peace, order and good government."

The Vancouver 9/11 Truth Society has invited a very impressive array of speakers. The conference will open on the night of Friday June 22nd, with historian Webster Griffin Tarpley, author of /9/11 Synthetic Terror/ and /George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography/ speaking on the history of false flag terrorism.

Saturday's presentation will focus on what really happened on 9/11, with experts of many of the technical aspects of what happened, how the US government managed to orchestrate this conspiracy, and how they've kept the truth suppressed. Not to be missed are physicist, and former BYU professor, Dr. Steven E. Jones as well as Robin Hordon, a former U.S. Air Traffic Controller for the FAA.

The world is a dangerous place, but not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.

On Sunday the conference will focus on how 9/11 fits into the broader picture. What exactly is the agenda of the US government? What do they mean when they say "New World Order"? How does 9/11 relate to the struggle to control Iraqi oil? What have been the effects of the use of depleted uranium? Can we actually do anything about American war crimes and, if so, how?

As a famous German scientist once said "The world is a dangerous place, but not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing." Are we in Vancouver – by just reading sound bites and entertaining ourselves with hockey games and Hollywood movies – indirectly contributing to the dangers our world now faces?

Is it in fact possible for people in a city isolated from the rest of the world by the Pacific Ocean on one side, and the Rocky Mountains on the other actually made a difference in global politics? The Vancouver 9/11 Truth Society believes that they are. The Vancouver 9/11 Truth Conference, will explain to us how.

For more information on The Vancouver 9/11 Truth Conference*, including a detailed speakers list, visit:/ http://www.v911truth.org/conference2007.html*

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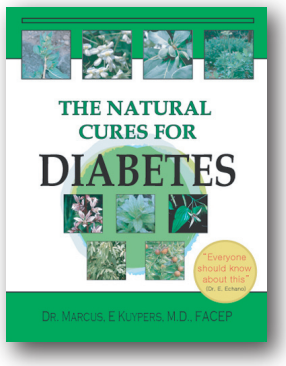

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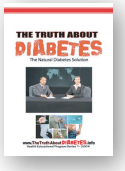

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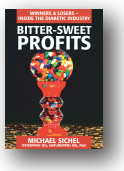

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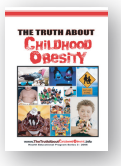

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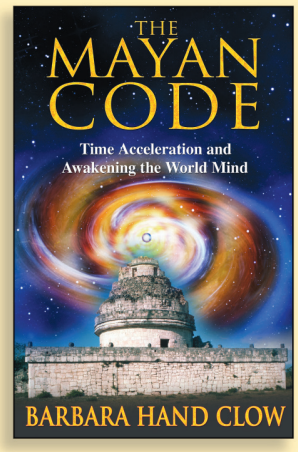

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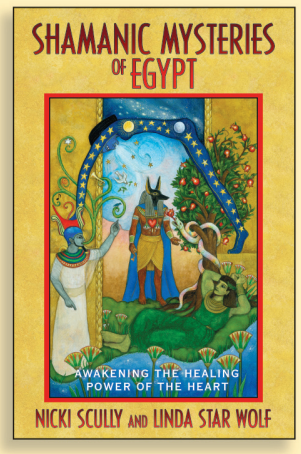

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EARTHFUTURE *Guy Dauncey*

Viewed from the silence of space, Earth gleams like the purest pearl, a floating poem of simplicity in the vastness of the universe. Who could guess that, under the fragile canopy of its atmosphere, one species could cause such trouble and yet be capable of such compassion, genius and incredible achievements?

It seems that every species on our planet desires two things. The first is to live peacefully in comfort and ease. The second is to explore: to try new foods, push into unknown territory and seek out new adventures. These two desires have always rubbed against each other. Those who are more conservative want to enjoy what they have and not rock the boat, while the explorers want to test a new frontier and challenge another myth. It's evolution's oldest interplay: Preserving the species versus seeking new possibilities.

The years 1900 to 1914 linger in our collective memory as a "golden summer" when all seemed well in the world. The romantic impulse of the late 19th century had been joined by the excitement over the first flight, the first motor cars, the first telephones and electricity. The spirit of the adventurer and the desire for comfort were equally satisfied, at least among those who had the time to write history.

Yet look where it led. You might have been living in Belgium, bringing in the harvest on a glorious summer afternoon in August of 1914. Everything felt so good, and because there was no Internet or telephone, most people were totally unaware of the deep contradictions that underpinned the tranquility. Then one day the guns of war exploded and a German army marched over the horizon; the world changed from heaven to hell. The 20th century had started.

The cause of the war? Adventurers pushing up against each other's territory; imperial powers determined to grab what they could of the world; and Germany's need for oil. Without oil, their ships, tanks and cars could not run, so they needed to build a railway from Berlin to Baghdad to control the Middle East's oil. This made the British very unhappy, given they thought it belonged to them.

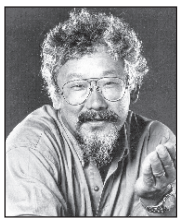
One hundred years later, many of us in the West enjoy a similar golden summer. Thanks to the astonishing bonanza of fossil fuels, we can do almost anything we want. Here on the West Coast, many of us live in paradise. Yet our own 1914 may be just around the corner as the contradictions accumulate regarding Iraq, terrorism and the gathering storms of global climate change. They are all related to our use of oil.

Instead of being called up to serve in the army, however – *Your Country Needs YOU!* – we are being called up to serve the Earth, to demonstrate that here in BC we can develop a sustainable, peaceful way of life without oil and without any greenhouse gas emissions. Why BC? Because we have been given a head-start by the gift of nature. Our mountains enable most of our electricity to be green, which will enable most of our transport to run on green power as electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. We don't need nuclear energy, coal or Site C. We can do it all by conserving the power we already have and generating new power from the sun, wind, tides and geothermal; by converting our homes and factories to zero-energy buildings; by growing our own organic food; and by becoming a zero-waste economy, recycling and reclaiming all materials.

We can step out of our laidbackness and do something extraordinary. We can launch the 21st century with a vision, instead of an explosion.

Someone has to demonstrate that it is possible. So why not us? We here in BC have already demonstrated our love for this Earth through the creation of Greenpeace, and through protecting much of Clayoquot Sound, a large part of the Great Bear Rainforest and other wilderness spaces across BC. We *can* step out of our laidbackness and do something extraordinary. We can launch the 21st century with a vision, instead of an explosion – that is our next big step forward, our next big adventure.

Guy Dauncey is author of the award-winning book Stormy Weather: 101 Solutions to Global Climate Change *(in all good bookshops) and president of the BC Sustainable Energy Association, which he encourages you to join (www.bcsea.org). He lives in Victoria.*



Our leaders don't get it

SCIENCE MATTERS *David Suzuki*

ENVIRONMENT

When Environment Minister John Baird announced his government's new climate change plan, I was in Toronto, getting ready to shoot some television commercials promoting energy conservation. I volunteered to do the commercials because I believe that everyone has to do his fair share to reduce the threat of global warming. Mr. Baird and Prime Minister Harper apparently disagree.

Our federal government's blatantly obvious strategy is to bamboozle Canadians into thinking it's on the ball when it comes to the environment, by presenting plans that have one flashy element, which everyone remembers, and then essentially supporting the status quo in everything else. The federal budget did this with the much-touted, but poorly-designed, feebate. Now, Mr. Harper and Mr. Baird can add lightbulbs to the list.

Switching lightbulbs is a no-brainer. Incandescent bulbs waste more than 90 percent of the energy they use on heat, rather than light. We have much better options, such as energy efficient lightbulbs that will help save energy, so of course let's do it. But that can't be the only thing we do.

Unfortunately, the new plan does little else. Yes, it does provide slightly better targets than Mr. Harper's original plan, but by focusing on emissions "intensity" rather than actual emissions reductions, we end up with a plan that is guaranteed to keep Canada at the back of the pack in the industrialized world. Let's take an example. Alberta's tar sands are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing intensity means a reduction in the amount of emissions per barrel of oil, and that's good. But if the total amount of oil extracted doubles or more, then any modest gains in efficiency are completely wiped out. So once again, Canada's biggest polluters are largely off the hook. That's just not fair. If Canada's biggest polluters are responsible for 50 percent of the problem, they should be responsible for 50 percent of the solution. Anything else is just wrong.

But because the plan is a marginal improvement over Mr. Harper's last attempt, the *Globe and Mail* actually ran an editorial praising it. They even lauded Mr. Baird for "telling the truth" to Canadians that sticking to our Kyoto targets would destroy the economy. Yet Canadians, including the *Globe's* own readers, don't believe the newspaper's stance or Baird's outrageous claims. In fact, *Globe* poll results in the same newspaper show that 60 percent of Canadians think that Mr. Baird's claims about Kyoto are "not believable" and 61 percent say we should stick to our Kyoto promise.

I think Canadians are getting to be more than a little embarrassed by the performance of our leaders, especially if you look at it from an international perspective. The vast majority of industrialized countries that ratified Kyoto are well on their way to meeting their goals by developing technology, building infrastructure and hiring and honing the talent to become economic and environmental leaders. Canada is missing out. Worse still, we aren't even trying.

This is Prime Minister Harper's second chance at a climate plan and his second weak effort. His first plan went through months of deliberation by an all-party committee and is now much improved. That plan, Bill C-30, is now a much more honest attempt at solving what is really a very big problem, for Canada and the world. I certainly hope Mr. Harper can put aside his partisan politics long enough to bring that Bill back, rather than proceed with this lame effort.

Practically every day we hear something new and scary about climate change. Canadians are justifiably worried. Whatever we do in response, as a country, must be commensurate with the problem. Lightbulbs and feebates alone won't cut it. We need a fair, equitable and responsible plan. Canadians should accept nothing less.

Take the Nature Challenge and learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org.

Once again, Canada's biggest polluters are largely off the hook. That's just not fair. If Canada's biggest polluters are responsible for 50 percent of the problem, they should be responsible for 50 percent of the solution.

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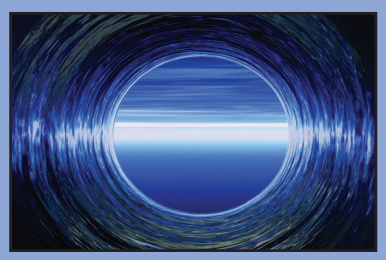

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Where have all the bees gone?

by Adrienne Beattie

Albert Einstein is believed to have warned, "If the bee disappears from the surface of the Earth, man would have no more than four years to live. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man." It is both a frightening prospect and a wise reflection on the interconnectedness of our species to all other forms of life on Earth.

In North America, about one-third of our diet is tied to honey bees; they provide the necessary pollination of much of our produce and nuts, as well as food consumed by livestock. In Canada, this pollination service is worth over $1 billion, according to the Canadian Honey Council. The Prairies are responsible for 80 percent of the country's honey production and in Alberta, 50,000 colonies are vital to canola seed production.

A bizarre phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) is sweeping across the US and posing a serious threat to these interdependent relationships. With alarmingly high bee losses reported across many provinces, it is suspected the disorder has infiltrated Canadian hives too. CCD is characterized by the disappearance of adult bees in a colony with little or no evidence to indicate where the bees have gone.

According to John Gibeau, president of the BC Honey Producers Association, up to 80 percent of the bees that overwintered in BC last year were lost. Similar loses have shown up in parts of Ontario, the Prairies and the Maritimes. In the US, beekeepers in California, Florida and Texas have experienced the greatest losses – up to 90 percent of their bees.

A number of CCD working groups have been established and several top universities and government agencies throughout North America are working to address this crisis. While theories abound about the possible causes of CCD, a consensus has not yet formed.

Theories

Electromagnetic/cell phone radiation: A German study out of Landau University provides preliminary evidence that radiation from cellular phones interferes with bees' navigation systems, preventing them from finding their way back to their hives. This complements previous research indicating that bee behaviour may be disturbed by power lines.

Genetically modified crops: Last year, the United States National Research Council stated that there could be "… sublethal effects attributable to the consumption of transgenic pollens," hypothesizing that gathering pollen and nectar from genetically modified crops which produce the insecticide Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) may weaken bees. German research also indicates exposure to maize pollen containing genes for Bt production could weaken an adult bee's defence against certain parasites.

Pesticides: Perhaps the most compelling evidence to date suggests that pesticide use is largely responsible for CCD. Most pesticides are known to be highly toxic to bees, a warning which is stated on product labels. May Berenbaum, head of the entomology department at the University of Illinois, believes some pesticides are causing bees to forget their way home. "There are some neurotoxic insecticides that can interfere with honeybee memory and that might be manifested in disruption of their orientation and navigation abilities, Berenbaum states.

Neonicotinoids, introduced in the 1990s, impair bees' memory, navigation, feeding behaviour and motor activity. Interestingly, while conventional beekeepers have reported mass bee die-offs, organic beekeepers are not suffering the same losses. Sharon Labchuk, an organic beekeeper from P.E.I. hasn't seen any.

"I'm on an organic beekeeping email list of about 1,000 people, mostly Americans, and no one in the organic beekeeping world is reporting colony collapse on this list." Labchuk reveals.

Factory-farmed bees: While the public is becoming more aware of factory farming practices among hog and poultry farmers, many are unaware of similar approaches within apiculture. The western honey bee, Apis mellifera, has been used as a monoculture. This single species is now the world's dominant, managed pollinator.

In an address to the U.S. House of Representatives by the Committee on the Status of Pollinators in North America, Berenbaum, chair of the committee, noted, "Honey bees are, in effect, six-legged livestock that both manufacture agricultural commodities – honey and wax – and, more importantly, contribute agricultural services: pollination."

Berenbaum estimated that if honey bee numbers continue to decline at the rates documented since 1989, managed honey bees will cease to exist by 2035.

"It is an unfortunate consequence of benign indifference to the precarious nature of an overwhelming reliance on a single species that few alternative actively-managed species are currently available for use," Berenbaum explains. "And despite evidence of their efficacy as crop pollinators, wild species are not being exploited to any significant extent."

Indeed, the western honey bee is not native to the western hemisphere and pollination has been historically performed by native bees. There are approximately 20,000 species of bees. Ants, wasps, beetles, moths, butterflies, flies, various birds, plants, wind and water are also capable of certain kinds of pollination.

Currently, though, intensive farming practices exploit the honey bee. According to Brent Halsall, president of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association, honey bees just make sense. "It's real efficient, real inexpensive and it works."

If honey bee numbers continue to decline at the rates documented since 1989, managed honey bees will cease to exist by 2035.

– May Berenbaum

Commercial beekeepers in the US transport colonies great distances between states to provide pollination services to various seasonal crops. This practice is known to cause great stress to bees. Dr. Peter Kevan, an associate professor of environmental biology at the University of Guelph notes that confinement, temperature fluctuations and mechanical vibrations during transport are also stressful to bees. Transportation of bees in Canada is limited due to our shorter growing season.

Pathogens: Accidentally introduced in the 1980s, the varroa mite is one nasty pest. It attacks bee populations by infecting the chambers where larvae are developing. The mites then feed on their blood. It is generally agreed that the varroa mite is a contributing factor in CCD, however, Canadian authorities do not believe they are the sole cause of the recent die-offs.

Dr. Peter Teel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chemistry research unit in Gainesville, Florida, is researching the small hive beetle and how it is causing bees to abandon their hives. About nine years ago, the beetle was accidentally brought in from Africa, where it is not a problem because bees are not managed there. Here, on the other hand, the beetle is a destructive parasite, entering the hive where it defecates and reproduces. The yeast from the beetle poop releases a pheromone that attracts the bees, but with the hives overrun by additional bees and beetles, all the bees soon flee the hive.

Climate change: The majority of apiarists agree that unusual weather has had an adverse effect on bees. In the US and in parts of Canada, an unusually warm winter last year is thought to have disturbed the bees' sensitive breeding cycle, causing them to accelerate the development of larvae just before an unexpected cold spell hit. The winter was also warmer and wetter than average in B.C. Meanwhile, cold temperatures and snow in April prevented Canadian beekeepers from unwrapping their colonies.

Solutions

Calls are unanimous to increase monitoring efforts for both wild and managed pollinators. Additionally, beekeepers are being advised to reduce pesticide use to an absolute minimum. Dr. Teel believes beekeepers need to keep their hives clean and manage their hives well in order to prevent stress-related attacks from parasites and pathogens. Others are looking to increased use of antibiotics to control viruses.

Organic beekeepers like Labchuck believe the intensive, conventional beekeeping conditions, combined with other environmental stresses are straining colonies too much. "In an organic Canada, native pollinators would flourish and small diversified farms would keep their own natural bees for pollination and local honey sales."

What you can do about CCD

Support the organic industry and purchase organic foods. This helps to eliminate hazardous pesticides, genetically modified organisms and factory farming techniques. Help native pollinators. Learn how to create a bee garden in your backyard. Google "create a bee garden" to find many online sources.

Adrienne Beattie writes on environmental and social issues, and works at Community Natural Foods, a locally-owned and operated natural health food store in Calgary.

Protect our sacred waters

by Dorothy Christian and Denise Nadeau

At this time in our history, our spiritual consciousness cannot be alienated from our political consciousness. Although we live in a society that claims a separation between religion and state, any thinking person knows that this is a fallacy. We need only glance to our neighbours south of the 49th parallel to realize the untruth of this statement. We've all grown up with the cliché that religion and politics don't mix. As we mature in our thinking, however, we see that a healthy and a whole human being cannot separate the spirit (spirituality) from the mind (politics).

We live in a very exciting time, although some may see it as frightening. The accelerated pace of globalization is moving humans all over the Earth. Some people are immigrating because they seek a better life outside of their homeland; others are forced to be refugees because of untenable wars in their country. Some of us are fortunate enough to travel for pleasure.

As globalization dissolves borders and pluralistic societies are created the world over, the uniqueness of each culture is threatened while the concept of cosmopolitanism promises a universal humanness without spirit. In the meantime, the capitalist machine continues to mine and exploit the resources of the Earth, with the decision-makers concerned only with profit margins, with no thought to the health and well-being of the next seven generations.

For many, the fight to stop the privatization and pollution of our waters is both a spiritual and political struggle. For First Nations peoples, the land and all that it provides has always been sacred; all spiritual/political practice is grounded in the interrelatedness of this relationship. Many of the first settlers in North America also respected the healing and life-giving essence of water. Water is sacred to all indigenous cultures and most world religions incorporate teachings about its inviolability. Yet here in BC, this relationship is being negated. The provincial government plans to sell-off off the energy capacity of 1,100 rivers to private companies that have no investment in the local environment.

The fight against the privatization of our waters is not merely an issue of private versus public ownership. It involves changing the nature of our relationship to water; from perceiving it as something that we merely use to honouring it as the life blood of Mother Earth, as it is portrayed in many Native teachings, and as a "relative," an integral member of the family.

Dorothy Christian (Okanagan-Secwepemc) is currently a graduate student at the School of Communications at Simon Fraser University. Denise Nadeau is interim director of the Interfaith Summer Institute for Justice, Peace & Social Movements.

Protect Our Sacred Waters

Free public forum July 5
6:30-9:30 PM, SFU Harbour Centre, 515 West Hastings Street

The public will hear the diverse voices of Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Christian and indigenous representatives who will share teachings on the "Sacredness of Water," joined by members from the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Citizens for Private Power and the Western Canada Wilderness Committee who will address the jeopardizing of BC's sacred waters.

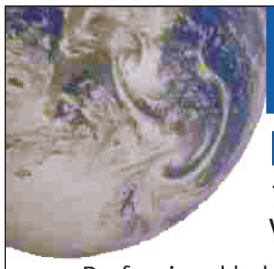
The *Protect Our Sacred Waters* forum is the initiative of the Interfaith Summer Institute for Justice, Peace and Social Movements, in conjunction with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the Western Canada Wilderness Committee. The Interfaith Institute is mandated to weave the contributions of spiritual traditions into social movement struggles and to build alliances between secular and faith-based justice groups.

The forum will reveal how the privatization of water licenses will affect:

- Aboriginal people and their rights and title
- Other citizens of BC as their public utility is being privatized
- The environment

The forum will allow discussion of strategies that bring the spiritual and political together as both Natives and non-Natives determine the future of the resources of BC. This is a call to the people of BC to have a voice in the future of BC.

For more information about the *Protect Our Sacred Waters* forum & the Interfaith Summer Institute for Justice, Peace and Social Movements (August 4-12), visit www.interfaithjustpeace.org. To find out about the threat to our rivers, visit www.ourrivers.ca.



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Stolen rivers virtual tour

by Austin Boyd

See Google Earth Map at www.saveourrivers.ca

Nobody is surprised to hear that Premier Gordon Campbell is denying involvement in the transfer of our public hydro energy assets to private corporations. Campbell installed a private utility operator from Bermuda into our public power system, BC Hydro, with ties to Enron and who is banned from doing business in the state of California. Campbell then changed the Energy and Mines Act in BC to protect the financial arrangements. Then, with Bill 30, our zoning rights were removed as the water licence fiasco began to unfold at the Ashlu River, www.ashlu.info.

Not only are the wheels coming off the Campbell Liberal government of BC, but the dam is about to burst. Our entire public electric power system and all of our rivers are going to be saved from the likes of Enron. Exercise your public power.

Take a virtual tour at www.hydrofactsbc.ca. Then act to protect your heritage, our rivers, public power systems, wind power sites and the Nechako River (Alcan) from Premier Gordon Campbell's rich friends.

One of many so called green projects. Heavy duty equipment drilling in Ashlu River watershed near Squamish, BC

After destroying habitat will they still be getting carbon credits?

Warning: con man

A man going by the name of Bobby Findley, Robert Finn or Bobby Michaels is out in the community pretending to be a visitor from Ireland. I recently met him in the lobby of the Hyatt Hotel on Burrard Street. He said he had just arrived from Belfast and had had his wallet and passport stolen. He said he was applying for a new American Express credit card and claimed he had opened the first pub in Belfast to serve Catholics and Protestants. He claimed to be part of a large Catholic family, that he had drank with Ted Kennedy, had famous people stay at his pad in Belfast, that he was part owner of a high-end club in Dublin called Club M, and that his father knew Van Morrison.

Description: short crew cut, somewhat overweight, maybe 230 lbs., likes to drink, says he is Irish, sharp mind and memory, reads people very fast, about 5' 10" and stocky, some scars to his scalp, beady eyes, round face, ruddy skin, gift of the gab, talks way too much, plays centre stage, has poor boundaries, makes smart ass remarks, gets in your face, says he is a scrapper and likes fights. He is charming, dangerous, computer savvy, uses Internet cafes and is a pathological liar.

Because this guy took a handful of *Common Ground* business cards without permission, and is pretending to be an old friend of mine, I am putting out this warning. He is not my friend and Bobby is not to be trusted. He said he had been to Whistler and Bowen where an old Irish writer with white hair bought him drinks at the pub and offered for him to stay. If there is such a character, do warn him. Bobby may hang out in Burnaby along Kingsway and in New Westminster.

The person who tipped me off is a minister who runs a charity thrift store down the street from our office. Bobby told him he was a born-again Christian coming back to the faith. Bobby managed to borrow hundreds of dollars from a congregation in Kitsilano and told them that he was staying at my place which he called an International House of Prayer. He tells different people whatever he figures they want to hear.

If you see a man handing out *Common Ground* business cards and matching the above description, please contact Vancouver Police in regards to file # 07-99338. If you can, take a photo of him, and/or call *Common Ground* at 604-733-2215. We do not want the name of *Common Ground* to be associated, in any way, with this scoundrel. Thank you for you attention.

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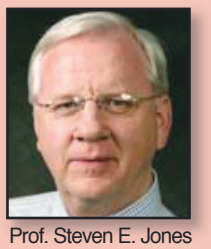
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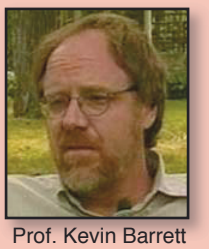
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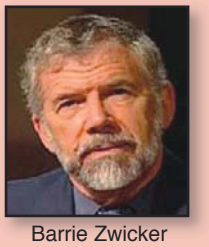
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Corrupt Pharma cont. from p. 19

Just last year, the Canadian branch of AstraZeneca was put on probation and fined by its own industry association (Rx&D), Canada's Research-based Pharmaceutical Companies for multiple and "unprecedented" violations of the group's code of ethical conduct. Seems what broke the camel's back in this case was the use of perks for doctors, such as an "educational" event for doctors in Jamaica in a snazzy hotel. Rx&D told the *National Post*, "We're sending out a clear message; there will be no tolerance of non-compliance. This is serious."

Serious? I'd say things are serious when people go to jail, like with Enron where company executives are hauled off in handcuffs. That's serious. How many drug industry executives have been jailed for its exploits? How many Merck executives wore the orange jumpsuit after the world's biggest drug disaster, Vioxx? Nada. None. Zip. Seems like the motto is: you do the crime, but you don't do the time. Sad.

So back to the question in our legislature over the practices of the pharmaceutical industry. If these court- ordered settlements and fines, industry-imposed letters of reprimand and other forms of condemnation of industry practices aren't evidence of dishonesty, what are they? Does the Liberal member from West-Vancouver Capilano have any substantive evidence to disprove these charges? And what would he suggest? That we award the companies with even more public money for their conduct? I'd really like to know.

But maybe it's not that easy. Dishonesty and immorality are human qualities; can they even be applied to a corporation? Some people, like the famous economist Milton Friedman, have argued that a corporation is only a legal entity and cannot act immorally or morally. It can have no moral responsibility; it is amoral and bears a financial responsibility to shareholders only. Full stop.

But if you look at the rights that a corporation possesses – rights of citizenry and rights of expression, for example – perhaps it should be judged in the same way that an individual is judged when he commits a wrongful act knowingly and willingly.

At the end of the day, consumers and physicians act on information that is developed, gathered, shaped and disseminated by the very companies that are selling the products. In the past, those same companies have been accused and charged with illegal and unethical behaviour. In some cases, they have gotten away with things. But the question is should we trust them in the future? Again, it's undeniable that there are good, ethical people working in the drug industry. It is also fair to say some drug companies can accurately be called convicted felons.

You might want to ask if we should trust our drug-use decisions to convicted felons. Now that's a question I'd like to ask in the legislature.

Alan Cassels is co-author of Selling Sickness *and a drug policy researcher at the University of Victoria. He is also the founder of* Media Doctor Canada*, which evaluates reporting of medical treatments in Canada's media. www.mediadoctor.ca*

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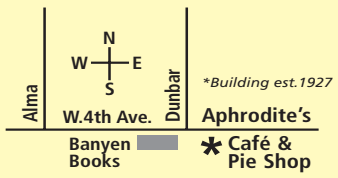

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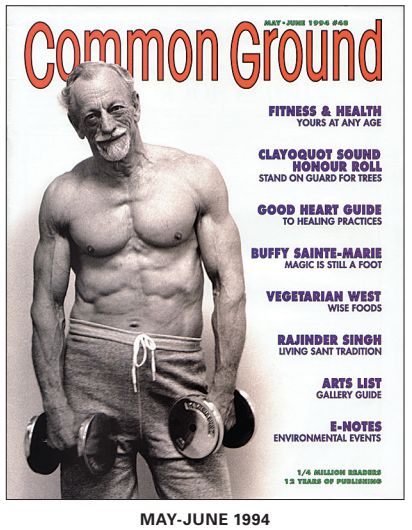

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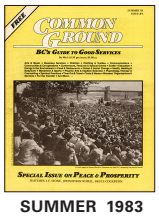

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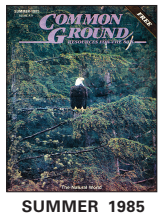

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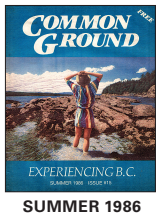

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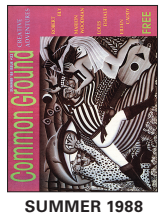

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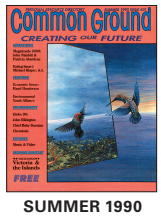

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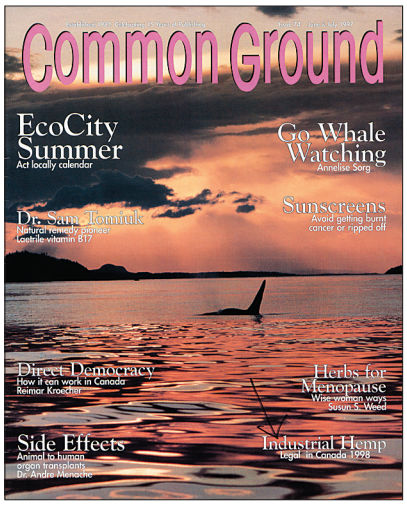

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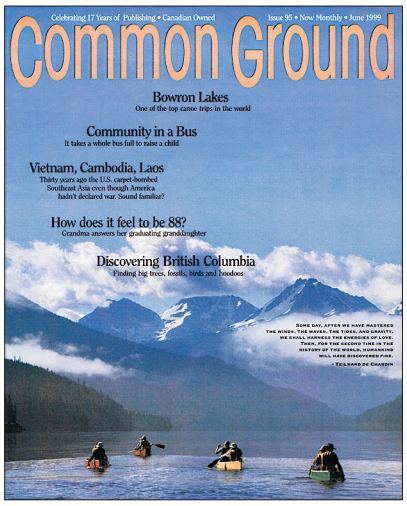
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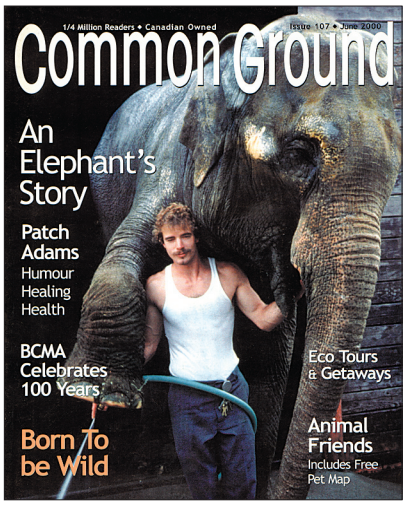

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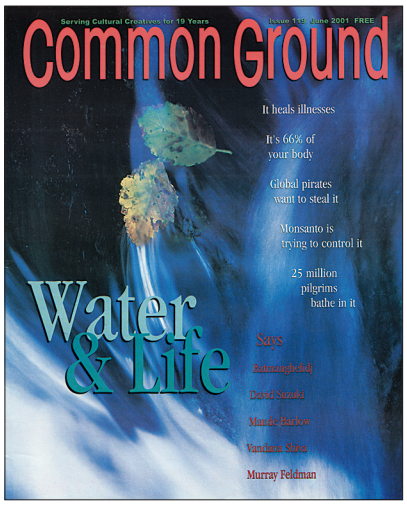

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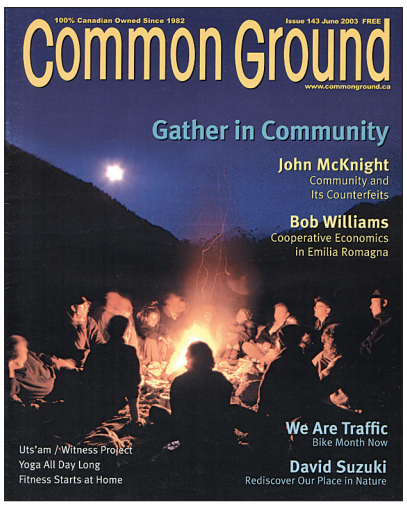

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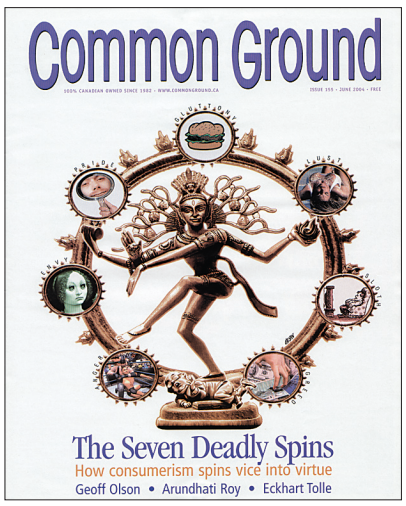

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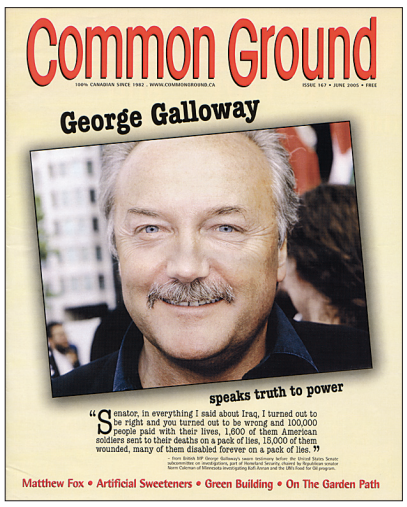
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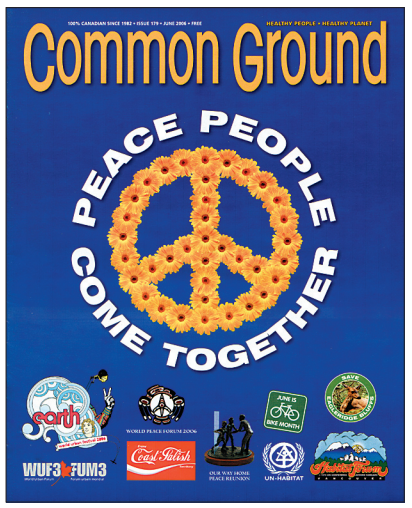

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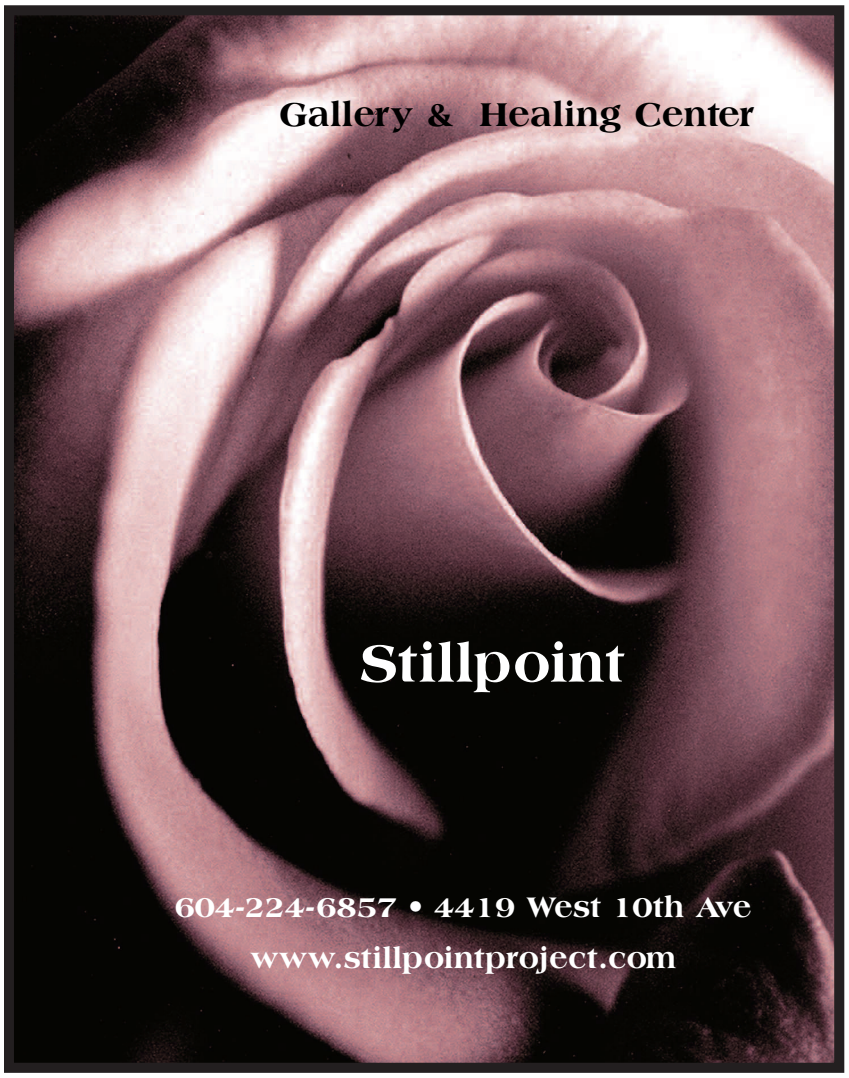

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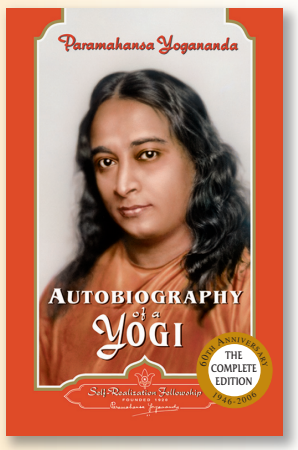

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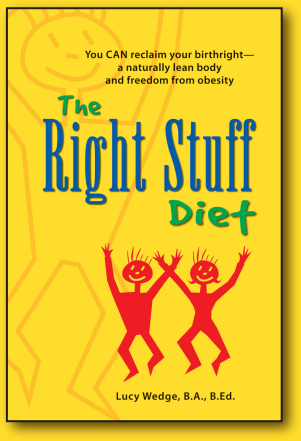

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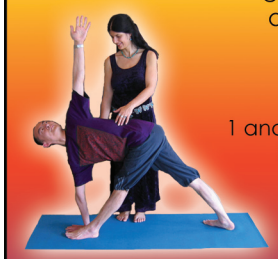

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Discover your true nature

THE POWER OF NOW *Eckhart Tolle*

The body that you can see and touch cannot take you into Being. That visible and tangible body is only an outer shell, or rather a limited and distorted perception of a deeper reality. In your natural state of connectedness with Being, this deeper reality can be felt as the invisible inner body, the animating presence within. So to "inhabit" the body is to feel it from within, to feel the life inside the body and thereby come to know that you are beyond the outer form.

But that is only the beginning of an inward journey that will take you ever more deeply into a realm of great stillness and peace, yet also of great power and vibrant life. At first, you may only get fleeting glimpses of it, but through them you will begin to realize that you are not just a meaningless fragment in an alien universe, briefly suspended between birth and death, allowed a few short-lived pleasures followed by pain and ultimate annihilation.

Underneath your outer form, you are connected with something so vast, so immeasurable and sacred, that it cannot be conceived or spoken of... You are cut off from Being as long as your mind takes up all your attention.

Underneath your outer form, you are connected with something so vast, so immeasurable and sacred, that it cannot be conceived or spoken of. Yet I am speaking of it now. I am speaking of it not to give you something to believe in, but to show you how you can know it for yourself. You are cut off from Being as long as your mind takes up all your attention. When this happens – and it happens continuously for most people – you are not in your body.

The mind absorbs all your consciousness and transforms it into mind stuff. You cannot stop thinking. Compulsive thinking has become a collective disease. Your whole sense of who you are is then derived from mind activity. Your identity, as it is no longer rooted in Being, becomes a vulnerable and ever-needy mental construct, which creates fear as the predominant underlying emotion. The one thing that truly matters is then missing from your life: awareness of your deeper self, your invisible and indestructible reality.

To become conscious of Being, you need to reclaim consciousness from the mind. This is one of the most essential tasks on your spiritual journey. A very effective way of doing this is simply to take the focus of your attention away from thinking and direct it into the body, where Being can be felt in the first instance as the invisible energy field that gives life to what you perceive as the physical body.

Please try it now. Direct your attention into the body. Feel it from within. Is it alive? Is there life in your hands and arms, legs and feet, in your abdomen, your chest? Can you feel the subtle energy field that pervades the entire body and gives vibrant life to every organ and every cell? Can you feel it simultaneously in all parts of the body as a single field of energy? Keep focusing on the feeling of your inner body for a few moments. Do not start to think about it. Feel it. The more attention you give it, the clearer and stronger this feeling will become. It will feel as if every cell is becoming more alive, and if you have a strong visual sense, you may get an image of your body becoming luminous. Although such an image can help you temporarily, pay more attention to the feeling than to any image that may arise. An image, no matter how beautiful or powerful, is already defined in form.

The feeling of your inner body is formless, limitless and unfathomable. You can always go into it more deeply. If you cannot feel very much at this stage, pay attention to whatever you can feel. Perhaps there is just a slight tingling in your hands or feet. Just focus on the feeling. Your body is coming alive. Please open your eyes now, but keep some attention in the inner energy field of the body even as you look around the room. The inner body lies at the threshold between your form identity and your essence identity, your true nature. Never lose touch with it.

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The high cost of anger

UNIVERSE WITHIN *Gwen Randall-Young*

SPIRITUALITY

Rudeness is the weak man's imitation of strength. – Eric Hoffer

The human capacity to express anger is a built-in mechanism that serves the "fight or flight" dynamic when survival is at risk. However, because of the way our egos see the world, anger often arises in situations that are scarcely life threatening.

Ego always wants things to go its way. Ego expects the world to conform to its wishes and throws a tantrum when it does not. Our job, as evolving creatures, is to rein-in those egoic fits of temper. Anger, as we have seen on the world stage, is counter-evolutionary. It is also counter-evolutionary on an individual level.

For all those involved – the angry individual, the target and the witness – anger results in the suppression of the immune system. Hearts pound, breathing quickens, muscles tense and blood pressure rises. This is all good when one's life is at stake, but hardly a physiological necessity during a lover's quarrel, a power struggle with a teenager, or when one is frustrated with another driver.

As well as being hard on the body, anger is destructive to relationships. Forty years after the fact, most adults can remember being the object of a parent or teacher's anger and virtually all children equate parental anger with the withdrawal of love. Teenagers are particularly sensitive to parental criticism and angry outbursts.

Anger also slowly corrodes the trust between intimate partners. Many women have a hard time dealing with an angry partner, and justifiably so. What some men do not realize is that when they lose their temper, they appear frightening. While they respond to this information by protesting that they would never hurt their partner and that she knows it, unfortunately, that knowledge does not help.

Even when her partner is venting at another driver, or yelling at the children, a woman will emotionally back away. She will not ever "just get used to it." It will affect her ability to be intimate, even on days when no angry outbursts occur. She is not holding a grudge or trying to be difficult; it's biological. And it is not just women who are affected by anger. A man with an angry spouse will have the same reactions.

Over time, one who is the object of frequent rage loses the ability to feel any fondness, let alone love, for the perpetrator. Every time the person gets yelled at, the heart scars a little more. Repeated scarring affects their ability to be responsive to the person. It can even damage their capacity to feel good about themselves, or to feel self-love.

What is significant is that this damaging anger is really unnecessary. Any message of hurt, dissatisfaction or annoyance can be delivered without the amplification of angry energy. Words can convey the same message. Accompanying the message with anger is like emotionally punching the person as you have your say. They may ultimately forget what you said, but they will remember the facial expressions, the volume and the intensity with which the message was delivered. They will remember it always, even with a subsequent apology.

When we lead with the soul, we develop the ability to express ourselves with integrity on a consistent basis.

Anger is a primitive response of the ego. When we lead with the soul, we develop the ability to express ourselves with integrity on a consistent basis. Soul understands that the experiences of life are all opportunities that challenge us to choose "higher self" responses, not just in public, but during our most private moments with others.

Those who are closest to us will challenge us the most because they trigger our ego responses. We may not always be in the best mood, or even feel loving. That is when it is most difficult not to take our mood out on others. However, those are also the times when we can rise up and truly transcend the lower impulses of ego. Not only will we feel better, but we will help raise the vibrational level in our home, and, ultimately, in the world.

Gwen Randall-Young is a psychotherapist in private practice and the author of Growing Into Soul: The Next Step in Human Evolution. *For articles and information about her books and personal growth/hypnosis CDs, visit www.gwen.ca. See display ad this issue.*

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After the great Asian Tsunami in 2004, I sat in 2-4 hour meetings with Spirit Guide, Jay Paul. Working with the Karma of the Earth, he felt the need to reiterate the atrocities of pollution, oil wars, Star Wars Technology and man's inhumanity to man that has shapen the Earth we live in. His urgent plea as spirit is to come together to create a new compassionate Earth Home. This is also a tool box woven with "Spiritual Stretches" meditations and activities.

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2nd Annual Our Way Home Peace Event and Reunion

JULY 4-8, 2007

Once again the world's attention is centred on this cross-borders peace event at the Brilliant Cultural Centre in the community of Brilliant, part of the city of Castlegar. We invite you to participate in the second annual Our Way Home Peace Event and Reunion weekend, which honours the courage and contribution of US war resisters who came to Canada during the Vietnam War as well as the courageous US war resisters who sought safe haven in Canada after resisting the war in Iraq. The event also honours the thousands of Canadians who helped them resettle in this country, both then and now. US war resisters who came to Canada during the Vietnam War offer our world an important model of nonviolence, as do those US war resisters arriving in Canada today during the US War in Iraq.

From 1965 to 1973, more than 100,000 draft-age Americans who refused to participate in the Vietnam War made their way to Canada. More than half of those still remain in the country.

Our Way Home Reunion events

• Workshops, panel discussions, theatre performances, films and keynote presentations that will contribute to the knowledge and understanding of previous war resistance and connect that understanding to action in today's world.
• A public music concert for peace.
• Workshops promoting healing and reconciliation for both war resisters and veterans. Through voluntary participation, some will join in a facilitated process that creates a safe space to hear each others' stories.

Inauguration of international war resisters organization

Join us this summer for the inaugural address for the War Resisters of Foreign Wars, an international war resisters organization. With speeches by former Israeli Air Force captain, Yonantan Shapira, also war resister from the US military's war on Iraq, Kyle Snyder and Our Way Home event director, Isaac Romano.

Our mission

The Our Way Home Peace Event and Reunion was created to:
• Honour US war resisters from the Vietnam and Indochina war era and their significant contribution to Canada.
• Honour those who assisted the US war resisters who came to Canada – groups such as the Quakers, Mennonites, Unitarians, Doukhabours and the thousands of individual Canadians who provided assistance and support.
• Conduct a public education campaign in order to prepare Canadians to support war resisters now and in the future.
• Conduct an educational campaign to provide healing for both veterans and civilians and to reveal the human cost of military conflict on combatants and civilians.

History

The Vietnam War, and the widespread war resistance it spurred, proved a turning point in Canada's development as a nation. In an assertion of sovereignty in its post-WWII relationship with the US, Canada opened its border and provided Americans with an opportunity to oppose the Vietnam War by moving to a new country and starting new lives.
From 1965 to 1973, more than 100,000 draft-age Americans who refused to participate in the Vietnam War made their way to Canada. More than half of those still remain in the country. Many of them settled in rural areas, becoming part of the "back to the land" movement of the late sixties and seventies. Others gravitated to Canada's urban centres and continue to work promoting and maintaining the kind of social justice they experienced upon arrival to this country.

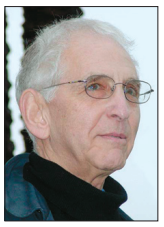
Why Castlegar?

The Brilliant Cultural Centre was founded by the Doukhobor population of the region, whose ancestors fled Russia in 1899 after destroying their weapons as a demonstration of their refusal to fight in the Tsarist Army. Russian author Leo Tolstoy was responsible for helping pay for the Doukhobors' travel as new immigrants to Canada.

The towns of Castlegar and nearby Nelson and the surrounding region of the West Kootenays were a leading terminus in what was known as the "Underground Railroad." It is estimated that as many as 14,000 US war resisters came to the area at the height of US immigration to Canada during the Vietnam War. New arrivals were frequently welcomed and assisted by members of two resident pacifist groups, the Doukhobors and the Quakers, the latter having earlier settled in the area after fleeing the US during the McCarthy period.

The community of Brilliant is located on the confluence of the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers, and surrounded by mountains. The present day West Kootenay Region, with an estimated population of 40,000, consists of many communities that are rich in arts and culture with a strong sense of activism rooted in the contributions of the numerous US expatriates who have made the area their home. Large numbers of Vietnam-era US expatriates continue to live in Castlegar, the neighbouring town of Nelson and throughout the smaller rural communities of the West Kootenays.

Keynote speaker:



Daniel Ellsberg was born in Detroit in 1931. After graduating from Harvard in 1952 with a BA summa cum laude in economics, he studied for a year at King's College, Cambridge University, on a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship.

Between 1954 and 1957, Ellsberg spent three years in the US Marine Corps, serving as rifle platoon leader, operations officer and rifle company commander. From 1957 to 1959, he was a Junior Fellow in the Society of Fellows, Harvard University. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics at Harvard in 1962 with his thesis, Risk, Ambiguity and Decision. In 1959, he became a strategic analyst at the RAND Corporation, and consultant to the Department of Defense and the White House, specializing in problems of the command and control of nuclear weapons, nuclear war plans and crisis decision-making. He joined the Defense Department in 1964 as Special Assistant to Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs) John McNaughton, working on Vietnam. He transferred to the State Department in 1965 to serve two years at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, evaluating pacification on the front lines.

On return to the RAND Corporation in 1967, he worked on the Top Secret McNamara study of U.S. Decision-making in Vietnam, (1945-68), which later came to be known as the Pentagon Papers. In 1969, he photocopied the 7,000 page study and gave it to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; in 1971 he gave it to the New York Times, Washington Post and 17 other newspapers. His trial, on 12 felony counts posing a possible sentence of 115 years, was dismissed in 1973 on grounds of governmental misconduct against him, which led to the convictions of several White House aides and figured in the impeachment proceedings against former President Nixon.

Since the end of the Vietnam War, Ellsberg has been a lecturer, writer and activist on the dangers of the nuclear era and unlawful interventions. Ellsberg is the recipient of the Inaugural Ron Ridenhour Courage Award, a prize established by The Nation Institute and The Fertel Foundation. On September 28, 2006, he was awarded the Sweden's Right Livelihood Award, also know as the "Alternative Nobel Prize."

Special guest presenters:

Peggy Mason's distinguished career highlights diplomatic and specialist expertise in the field of international peace and security, with a particular emphasis on the United Nations, where she served as Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament from 1989 through 1994. During this period she headed the Canadian delegation to numerous diplomatic conferences including the 1990 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference and the 1991 Biological and Toxin Weapons Review Conference. In 1994-1995 she chaired a UN Expert Study that examined the work of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in relation to disarmament in Iraq and she served on the UN Secretary-General's Disarmament Advisory Board from 1993 to 1997.

Peggy Mason has been a faculty member of the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre since 1996 and has developed and delivered course material ranging from the role of the Political/Diplomatic Partner in Peace Operations, and the Legal Framework for Peace Operations to the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of Ex-combatants. As a trainer and role player, she brings the UN perspective to a range of NATO peacekeeping training exercises.

She has been an Advisor to the Cana-

dian Foreign Ministry on the control of small arms and light weapons, chaired the UN 2001 Group of Governmental Experts study on small arms regulation and has been a member of the Canadian delegation to UN conferences and meetings seeking to develop and implement a comprehensive plan of action to address the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, the most recent of which was held in New York in January 2006.

A Senior Fellow at The Norman Paterson School of International Relations (NPSIA) since November 2002, Peggy Mason has taught a graduate seminar on International Organizations, helped train young Kuwaiti diplomats and, most recently, become a member and chair of the Advisory Board to the new Canadian Centre for Treaty Compliance at NPSIA.

Ms. Mason is active with a number of non-governmental organizations including chairing the Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee (CPCC) and the Ottawa-based foreign policy NGO, the Group of 78. She is a Senior Advisor to the Ottawa-based Rideau Institute Project on Space Security, a member of the Council of the World Federalist Movement-Canada and a member of the Canadian Pugwash Group.

Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, is president and co-founder of M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence in Memphis, Tennessee. Born in 1934 in Durban, South Africa, Arun is the fifth grandson of India's legendary leader, Mohandas K. "Mahatma" Gandhi. Growing up under the discriminatory apartheid laws of South Africa, he was beaten by "white" South Africans for being too black and "black" South Africans for being too white, so Arun sought an eye-for-an-eye justice. He learned from his parents and grandparents, however, that justice does not mean revenge; it means transforming the opponent through love and suffering.

Grandfather taught Arun to understand nonviolence through understanding violence. "If we know how much passive violence we perpetrate against one another, we will understand why there is so much physical violence plaguing societies and the world." Gandhi said. Through daily lessons, Arun says, he learned about violence and about anger.

Arun shares these lessons all around the world. For the past five years, he has participated in the Renaissance Weekend deliberations with President Clinton and other well-respected Rhodes Scholars. This year, some of his engagements included speaking at the Chicago Children's Museum and the Women's Justice Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He also delivered talks at the Young President's Organization in Mexico, the Trade Union Leaders meeting in Milan, Italy, as well as the Peace and Justice Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Sometimes, his journeys take him even further. Arun has spoken in Croatia, France, Ireland, Holland, Lithuania, Nicaragua, China and Japan. He is also a very popular speaker on college campuses. In the past year, he has spoken at the University of Rochester, North Dakota State University, Concordia College, Baker University, Morehouse College, Marquette University and the University of San Diego.

Arun is also very involved in social programs and writing. Shortly after he married his wife Sunanda, they were informed that the South African government would not allow her to accompany him there. Sunanda and Arun decided to live in India, and Arun worked for 30 years as a journalist for The Times of India. Together, Arun and Sunanda started projects for the social and economic uplifting of the oppressed using constructive programs, the backbone of Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence. The programs changed the lives of more than half a million people in over 300 villages and they still continue to grow. Arun is the author of several books, including A Patch of White (1949) about life in prejudiced South Africa and The Forgotten Woman: the Untold Story of Kastur, the wife of Mahatma Gandhi, co-authored with Sunanda.

Growing up under the discriminatory apartheid laws of South Africa, he was beaten by "white" South Africans for being too black and "black" South Africans for being too white, so Arun sought an eye-for-an-eye justice.

Leonard I. Weinglass has been defending political cases arising out of the movements for peace and civil rights in the US for more than 30 years and has served as trial counsel in such well known cases as: the Chicago Seven; the Pentagon Papers trial; the trial of Jane Fonda in her suit against Richard Nixon; African-American radical Angela Davis; Bill and Emily Harris, charged with kidnapping Patty Hearst; Amy Carter, the daughter of the former president Jimmy Carter, charged with the seizure of a building at the University of Massachusetts; Mumia Abu Jamal, death row inmate; Kathy Boudin, former Weatherman; and the five Cubans charged with espionage in Miami. He also defended a series of death penalty cases in Georgia, Alabama and Washington State. Over the years, he has served as an official observer in trials in Asia, Europe and South America. In 1974, he became the first recipient of the Clarence Darrow Award. Currently he practices law solo out of his office in New York City.

Tom Hayden,'60s icon – leader of the student movement, leader of the anti-war movement (one of the famous "Chicago Seven") and a leading activist in the civil rights movement. Hayden was among the most progressive senators in California, initiating far reaching environmental and worker-rights legislation. He has spoken in opposition to the US occupation of Iraq and has recently joined a group of US notables calling for Canadians to send a letter directly to Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, urging him to allow US soldiers to enter Canada if they request permission to do so during the US War in Iraq.

Alan Canfora was a student at Kent State University, Ohio, when he was shot and wounded in by Ohio National Guardsmen in the Kent State shootings on May 4, 1970 while protesting the invasion of Cambodia. Canfora was one of nine students injured in the shootings at Kent State that day. Of these, Canfora has been the most outspoken about the shootings and the US government's role in the event and in what he calls the cover-up of the incident in the decades since. He has been involved in public speaking and maintains a website where he has published excerpts of his forthcoming book on the events at Kent State from 1967 to 1970.

An audiocassette that has sat in a Yale library for nearly two decades may hold the evidence explaining why Ohio National Guard troops shot into the crowd of protesters. The recording, recently made public by Canfora seems to capture the sound of someone ordering the guardsmen to fire. Canfora is still very active in politics and has been the chairperson of the Barberton Democratic Party since 1992. He is also the director of the Kent May 4 Center, a non-profit, tax-exempt educational charity.

Cherie R. Brown is the founder and executive director of the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI), an internationally recognized nonprofit leadership training organization. In 18 years, Brown has built NCBI into one of the leading diversity training and grassroots leadership organizations with chapters in 50 cities worldwide. NCBI has trained over 10,000 men, women and young people in cities, corporations and on college campuses around the world. These NCBI-trained leaders work together in teams to provide a powerful resource for their communities, combating prejudice, resolving inter-group conflict and launching activist-based coalitions.

Brown's work has been featured on ABC evening news, National Public Radio (NPR), Christian Science Monitor World News; and in the Washington Post, Los Angeles Time's Sunday Magazine, New York Times, Boston Globe and Chicago Tribune. In 1999, the work of NCBI was designated a "best practice for racial reconciliation" by then President Clinton's Initiative on Race. The U.S. Department of Education chose NCBI's work on race and gender issues on college campuses as one of only five organizations to receive a designation of "best practice."

Yonatan Shapira, aged 34, was a Captain in the Israeli Air Force reserves. He is also a military refuser. Yonatan joined the Israeli Defense Force in 1991 and graduated from the Israel Air Force flight course in 1993. He served as a regular in the Air Force until 1999. While a regular, he flew primarily as a rescue helicopter pilot, completing well over 100 missions, including missions in Lebanon.

In 2001, while a civilian pilot and member of the Reserves, Yonatan was called back to service to become one of the founding members of the Israel Air Force's new Black Hawk squadron, for which he received specialized training in the US Army. Following initiation of the squadron, he resumed his status in the reserves. As a reservist, he served as a pilot, operations leader and instructor.

In September 2003, Yonatan, along with 26 other Air Force pilots, signed a declaration refusing to participate in attacks on populated areas in the Occupied Palestinian Territories because of the belief that these attacks are illegal, immoral and do not serve the security of Israel. After authoring and issuing the "Pilot's Letter," he was dismissed from the Israeli Air Force by the Air Force commander, General Dan Halutz.

Since then Yonatan has been active in

The Arlington Northwest exhibit is a nonpartisan memorial, raising public awareness of the costs of the war in Iraq. It is setup and maintained by members of EPJC and the local Veterans for Peace chapter. The Arlington Northwest exhibit, in Peter Kirk Park, Oct. 2004 is shown below. Each cross represents one service member who has died.

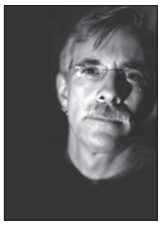
several anti-occupation groups, including Yesh-Gvul. He is one of the founding members of Combatants for Peace, an Israeli-Palestinian organization of former combatants from both sides who are now committed to the non violent struggle to end the occupation and the cycle of violence.

Yonatan lives in Tel Aviv and New York. In addition to his work as a pilot, he volunteers for "SELA," the Israeli Crisis Management Center, an organization dedicated to aiding new immigrants and victims of terror and he also volunteers for "Etgarim - Challenges" as a sailing instructor for people with disabilities. Yonatan is also a musician and recently has released his first recording. Yonatan is currently working to complete a Masters' Degree under the auspices of the European Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (EPU).

David Cline is the US national president of Veterans for Peace. He is a disabled combat veteran who served with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam during 1967. Upon his return he joined the GI antiwar movement and helped publish the underground Fatigue Press at Fort Hood, Texas. In 1970 he joined Vietnam Veterans Against the War and has been a member ever since. He has worked with homeless veterans, in PTSD rap groups and co-founded the Jersey City Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee. He has also been involved in the labor movement as a shop steward in the American Postal Workers Union and as local vice-president in the Transport Workers Union.

Mark C. Johnson, Ph.D., became the executive director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation/USA on March 1, 2007. A 1969 graduate of The College of Wooster in Ohio, and with a 1981 doctorate in sociology from Columbia University in the City of New York, Mark has spent most of his professional career in the YMCA and as a volunteer in environmental, arts, and peace and social justice organizations.

His longest tenure was as the executive director of the Silver Bay Association, a YMCA conference and training center on Lake George in the Adirondacks. He was president of the Lake George Land Conservancy for eight years and a trustee with the Adirondack Nature Conservancy and Adirondack Land Trust for nine years. Mark did his alternative service as a conscientious objector in Lebanon, living and teaching in Beirut for six years. Over the past six years he has been active with the emergent Alliance for Middle East Peace and has supported the development of leadership and training programs for young adults at the Jerusalem International YMCA as a member of the staff of the YMCA of the USA. He is married and has three adult children. He lives in New City, New York near the Nyack, New York headquarters of FOR. www.forusa.org.



Mark Nykanen, is a four time Emmy Award-winning investigative journalist for NBC TV. Nykanen is war resister who has moved with his family to Nelson, BC and is working as a fiction writer.

Jeffrey House is legal counsel representing Jeremy Hinzman and other US military deserters who are applying for refugee status in Canada. Jeffrey House was called to the Bar in Ontario and practices law in Toronto. Mr. House came to Canada as a US draft resister during the Vietnam War.

Dr. Susan Hardwick is a Professor of Geography at the University of Oregon who specializes in the cultural geography of Canada and the U.S. She is an internationally known consultant and expert on the migration of various immigrant and refugee groups in western Canada and the U.S. Most recently Prof. Hardwick has been directing a grant funded long-term project that is documenting and mapping the migration, settlement and political and socio-cultural identities of U.S.-born immigrants in British Columbia. She is also the senior author of a university-level Prentice Hall textbook on North American regional geography (2007), a co-editor of a forthcoming Brookings Institution book on immigration issues in North American metropolitan areas, an has published five other books and a long list of journal articles on issues related to the ever-changing patterns and cultures of America's and Canada's diverse populations.

Dr. Hardwick was named "Statewide Outstanding Professor" for the entire California State University System in 1995 and is the past president of the National Council for Geographic Education. She also holds numerous awards for excellence in teaching and research, and is widely traveled in North America, Greenland, the former Soviet Union and Southeast Asia.

Steve Morse of Oakland, CA. has been active with the GI Rights hotline where he's been a counselor for eight years and was a coordinator for two years. He's an active member of Veterans for Peace, Chapter 69. In the mid and late 60's, he was active with Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), and did alternative service as a conscientious objector that included draft resistance work and anti-war outreach to GI's. In 1969, he joined the Army to be part of GI resistance, which included in four months in Vietnam and six months of stockade confinement for distributing dissident literature. He was a sheet metal worker and shop steward and has also taught mathematics.

John Hagan, PhD, professor Emeritus, Sociology Department, University of Toronto and John D. Macarthur, professor of Sociology, Northwestern University. Author of *"Northwest Passage: American Vietnam Era War Resisters in Canada"*.

Michelle Mason, award-winning filmmaker, regionally premiers her new feature-length documentary film, *Breaking Ranks,* which features current US military deserters who have recently come to Canada. Michelle Mason's award-winning documentary film *The Friendship Village* will also be shown at the Our Way Home Reunion. The film has won six international awards, including best documentary film at film festivals in New York, Chicago and Boulder. Michelle Mason is married to historian Dr. Jeff Schutts, formerly a platoon-leader and conscientious objector from the US military. Dr. Schutts co-produced the Friendship Village and will also be a presenter at the event.

David Zeiger is director, writer, producer of the multi-award winning documentary film, *Sir! No Sir!* which accomplishes four things: 1) It brings to life the history of the US military GI movement during the Vietnam War through the stories of those who were part of it; 2) It reveals the explosion of defiance that the movement gave birth to with never-before-seen archival material; 3) It explores the profound impact that movement had on the military and the war itself; and 4) It tells the story of how and why the GI Movement has been replaced with the myth of the spat-upon veteran.

Zeiger's Sir! No Sir! challenges deeply-held beliefs not just about the Vietnam War and those who fought it, but about the world we live in today. It is a vivid portrayal of William Faulkner's famous observation that, "The past isn't dead; it isn't even past." Zeiger's previous film, A Night of Ferocious Joy, premiered at the International Documentary Filmfestival Amsterdam. The festival, which featured it as part of its USA Today section, described the film as "… not an ordinary concert film... because it will go down in history as the first anti-war concert of the new millennium." Its US festival premiere was at South by Southwest in 2004.

The Band, Mr. Zeiger's tribute to his son, aired to critical acclaim on the PBS series P.O.V. in 1998. It has screened at the International Documentary Filmfestival Amsterdam and AFI Film Festival in Los Angeles, and was awarded Best Documentary and Best of Show at the Central Florida Film Festival. The Band was broadcast in 2000 on the French/German network ARTE.

Jack Silberman has been producing, writing and directing documentary films for 25 years. His films have won more than 60 international awards and have been broadcast on television networks around the world. His film Bombies was about the problem of unexploded cluster bombs in Laos, the deadly legacy of a secret US air war. It won first place at 10 film

festivals, was broadcast on PBS and international television networks and is widely used by peace activists. His most recent film, Raised to be Heroes, which he directed and wrote for the National Film Board of Canada, is about refuseniks – Israelis who refuse to fight in the Occupied Territories. Set against the conflict in the Middle East, it explores issues of peace, conscience and personal responsibility.

Mike Wong was born and raised in San Francisco. As an American soldier during the Vietnam War, he was very influenced by the anti-war movement, the pictures of other GIs murdering Vietnamese civilians at My Lai and reports from fellow soldiers returning from Vietnam. When he received Vietnam orders, he went AWOL for two weeks, then turned himself in to the Presidio stockade with his lawyer, pleaded guilty to AWOL, refused orders to Viet Nam and attempted to press a limited conscientious objector (objection to a particular war, not legitimate national defense) case. The army turned him down, dropped three felony charges worth a total of 15 years in prison, released him from the stockade and put him back on Vietnam orders. He escaped to Canada and lived in exile for five years. He returned after the war, pleaded guilty to long-term AWOL and received an "Undesirable Discharge." He later earned a Masters degree in Social Work, and has been a social worker for 30 years. Since the first Gulf War he has been a member of Veterans for Peace and the Veterans Writers Group. He is featured in the film about the Vietnam era GI anti-war movement, Sir! No Sir! and the anthology edited by Maxine Hong, Kingston Veterans of War, Veterans of Peace.

Dr. Stephen Zunes is a professor of politics at the University of San Francisco and the Middle East editor for foreign policy in Focus. He serves on the advisory board for the Tikkun Community, the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict and other peace and human rights organizations He is a foreign affairs columnist for the National Catholic Reporter, an associate editor of Peace Review and a regular contributor to the Common Dreams News Center. His commentaries have appeared in major daily newspapers throughout the US, Canada and Europe and he has frequently provided analysis on radio news programs for BBC, CBC, NPR and Pacifica, among others. Professor Zunes is the author of scores of articles for scholarly and general readership on Middle Eastern politics, US foreign policy, international terrorism, social movements and human rights. He is the principal editor of Nonviolent Social Movements and the author of the highly-acclaimed Tinderbox: U.S. Middle East Policy and the Roots of Terrorism. He won recognition in 2002 from the Peace and Justice Studies Association as Peace Scholar of the Year.

Bill Blaikie was born and raised in Transcona, Manitoba. He received a BA in philosophy and religious studies from the University of Winnipeg in 1973 and a master of divinity degree from the Toronto School of Theology in 1977. From 1977 to 1979, he worked as director of a special outreach ministry of the United Church in the north end of of Winnipeg. Blaikie was ordained to the ministry of the United Church of Canada in 1978.

He was first elected to the House of Commons in 1979 as a New Democrat and has been re-elected eight times, most recently on January 23, 2006. He is Dean of the House of Commons. Blaikie's interest in issues pertaining to the Vietnam War has its origins in the way the anti-Vietnam War movement helped him and other young people of that era discover the prophetic tradition within the larger biblical tradition that calls on citizens to challenge the self-righteous assumptions and hidden corporate interests of their own "side" in conflicts like the Vietnam War.

Bill Siksay was elected Member of Parliament for Burnaby-Douglas (in BC) in 2004 and re-elected in January 2006 and is a member of the NDP shadow cabinet, serving as critic for citizenship and immigration. He is a member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration, and a leading political spokesperson calling for the Canadian government to assist current US Military Deserters arriving in Canada. Bill Siksy is also caucus critic on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered issues.

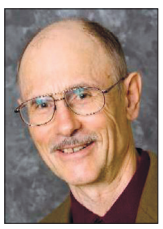
Keith Mather is a member of Veterans for Peace. For 13 years Keith Mather has been a member of Veterans Writers Workshop, led by internationally-renowned US author Maxine Hong Kingston. Keith Mather is the author of Veterans of War, Veterans of Peace, edited by Maxine Hong Kingston. Mather was drafted right out of high school in September of 1967. He was opposed to the Vietnam War when he was drafted. Keith trained as an Infantryman at Fort Lewis, Washington. While in the military he became increasingly opposed to the war. Mather's first AWOL was in 1967, followed by a second in 1968. He took part in the Nine for Peace demonstration in San Francisco in July of that year. For his anti-war activities, Mather was put into the stockade at the Presidio of San Francisco.

While awaiting his first court-martial, a fellow prisoner was shot and killed by a guard while on a work detail. Mather and 26 other prisoners staged a non-violent sit-down demonstration inside the stockade grounds, for which they were charged with mutiny. Prior to this second court martial, Mather along with another prisoner, escaped from the Presidio stockade, travelled to Canada and arrived in Vancouver on January 1, 1969. Mather lived in Canada for 12 years, married a French Canadian woman and settled first in Quebec and eventually in BC. Upon returning to California in 1980, Mather was arrested four years later and put back into the army where he spent five months at Fort Ord and Fort Riley in Kansas. Mather was discharged on May 10, 1985.

Mather now lives and works in the San Francisco Area and travels to Canada often, maintaining his many friendships. These days you can find Mather speaking in schools as he continues to support resistance to war. Mather is featured in the anti-war documentary film, Sir! No! Sir! Mather indicates his thanks to Canada for its welcome and warmth.

Tom Bernard is a labor representative for the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Healthcare NW in Portland Oregon and a member of Veterans for Peace. Bernard is also a Vietnam veteran, who trained as a Vietnamese linguist in the Hanoi dialect by the US Air Force. During his military assignments in SE Asia, Bernard became a member of Vietnam Veterans against the War/Winter Soldier Organization (VVAW/WSO) and first active in the GI Movement.

After being discharged from the US military, Tom worked as a field organizer for Pacific Counseling Service/ Military Law Office (PCS/MLO) at GI Movement organizing projects in Yokosuka, Japan and Koza City, Okinawa. He later served as the executive director for the Colorado Peace Network. Bernard has also authored several articles which have been widely published on his experiences in the military. In 2005, he and several rank and file members of his old military unit, collectively known as the "WORMS" were featured in the David Zeiger, Vietnam War GI Resistance documentary film, Sir! No Sir! Raised in Detroit, MI, Bernard now lives with his wife, Helen Lee and two dogs in North Portland. Tom and Helen have five adult children and two grandchildren.



Alex Atamanenko, newly elected MP, is the son of refugees from the Russian Revolution, who was born and raised in New Westminster, BC. He earned a BA in recreation administration from UBC and a master's degree in Russian literature from the University of Toronto. He served as an interpreter during the prime minister's visit to the Soviet Union in 1989 and for the Canadian Navy trip to Vladivostok in 1990. As a devoted advocate for peace, he has been very active in the Kootenay Regional United Nations Association. He lives in the West Kootenays whenever his duties as Member of Parliament and NDP Agriculture Critic do not require him to be in Ottawa.

Francisco Juarez joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 2002 and worked in the regular Navy before transferring to the Army Reserve as an infantry officer. He hoped to secure a place on a rotation to Afghanistan by 2009. In the middle of officer training he decided he could no longer support Canada's mission or be a part of a military whose focus had been lost. He continues to speak to issues related to international peace and security.

Kyle Snyder, U.S. soldier, thought he was going to the Middle East to build roads; instead, Snyder, who served almost four months in Iraq, was a gunner on a Humvee military vehicle. Snyder deserted and fled to Canada and now lives in Alberta. Kyle has been a leading spokesperson among current war resisters who have recently fled to Canada. He is among the growing list of current US war resisters from the US War in Iraq who have come to Canada and are filing refugee claims here in Canada.

Mark Kurlansky, *New York Times* best-selling author, was a draft resister who refused to serve in the Vietnam War. As a newspaper correspondent, he worked in Western and Eastern Europe, Mexico, Central America, South America, the Caribbean and other parts of the world. His latest book, Nonviolence: Twenty-five Lessons from the History of a Dangerous Idea, is one of 15 books he has written including 1968: the Year that Rocked the World; Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World; The Basque History of the World; two works of fiction and three children's books. He always looks for opportunities to campaign for peace.

Ryan Johnson is a US military deserter from the US War in Iraq. Ryan is from a small agricultural town in the central valley of California who joined the

military because he otherwise couldn't afforded to go to college and didn't have any kind of health coverage for himself and his wife. Johnson told the recruiters that he didn't want to fight in the US War in Iraq. The recruiter told him that wouldn't be a problem and that he would be sent to Fort Irwin to a "non-deployable unit." But after three weeks, he was told he was deploying to Iraq. Johnson began asking questions of the soldiers in his unit who had been to Iraq and the stories he heard shocked him. Johnson was then to be deployed, even while in the hospital for pneumonia. X-rays showed that he had two fractured vertebrae from an injury sustained during his military training. Though he assumed he would receive treatment for the fractures, he was told there was no time for therapy because he was being sent to Iraq.

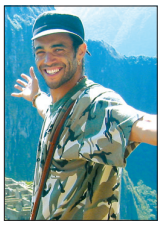
On January 15, Johnson and his wife packed their car and left Fort Irwin in California. Some months later, Ryan and his wife made the decision to come to Canada, where they are going through the refugee process. Before leaving the US, they were interviewed by Amy Goodman for Democracy Now, which aired on their arrival to Canada.

Peter Laufer, winner of major awards for excellence in reporting, is an independent journalist, broadcaster and documentary filmmaker working in traditional and new media. While a globe-trotting correspondent for NBC, he also reported, wrote and produced several documentaries and special event broadcasts for the network that dealt with crucial social issues, including the first nationwide live radio discussion of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Healing the Wounds was an analysis of ongoing problems afflicting Vietnam War veterans.

Laufer is currently the anchor of the radio program National Geographic World Talk and co-anchor of the radio program Washington Monthly on the Radio. His most recent book, Mission Rejected: U.S. Soldiers Who Say No to Iraq (2006) describes how disillusioned, outraged, and betrayed American soldiers are taking a stand against the war in Iraq. The book includes individual chapters on US war resisters in Canada, including a chapter on Ryan and Jen Johnson who will be attending the Our Way Home Peace Event and Reunion.

Lee Zaslofsky was born in Brooklyn, NY, and was educated at the State University of New York and at the University of Toronto. He was drafted into the US Army in early 1969. Though opposed to the Vietnam War, he decided to report for duty. He was sent to Fort Jackson, SC, and trained as an infantryman. During his time in the army he applied for CO Status, but was refused. He took part in antiwar activities on the base. In December of 1969, he received orders to go to Vietnam. He deserted and crossed the Canadian border in January of 1970. He has since lived in Toronto. In 1975, Zaslofsky returned briefly to the US and was processed out of the Army at Ft. Dix, NJ. He did not apply for an amnesty. Later that year he became a Canadian citizen.

In Canada, Zaslofsky has been a political and community activist, at various times holding positions as executive assistant to city councillor Jack Layton; constituency assistant to Dan Heap, MP; health advocate at a community health centre and media and advocacy coordinator at the AIDS Committee of Toronto. He has served as a citizen member of the Toronto Board of Health, Chair of the Community Advisory Committees at Doctors Hospital and Toronto Western Hospital; and Chair of the Board of Scadding Court Community Centre. Since 2004, Zaslofsky has been coordinator of the War Resisters Support Campaign, based at the National Office in Toronto.



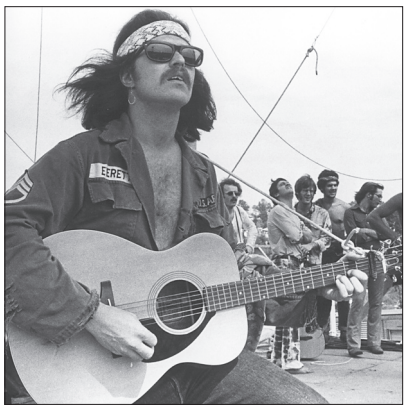
Sol Guy is one of Canada's leading music executives in the urban music sector, with 17 years of experience in the music industry, entertainment and media. He is listed by Diversity Watch as one of Canada's most prominent black figures. Guy has been an influential contributor to the rise of global hip-hop culture and one of the top marketing experts in the world for youth culture. He is credited with developing the urban music market in Canada, including organizing "The Hip Hop Explosion Tour" the first national hip-hop tour. He has served as urban product manager at BMG Canada as well as international director for Arista Records in New York City where he led the development of the urban music market internationally.

Sol has helped develop and market top artists, such as Lauryn Hill, P Diddy, India Arie, k-os, Rascalz, The Roots, Outkast, Kardinal Offishall, Dead Prez, B.I.G. and The Wu-Tang Clan. Over the years, he has worked for BMG Canada, Arista Records, Motown, LaFace, Bad Boy, Columbia Records, Universal Music, BMG Global, RCA Records, J Records, Interscope, MCA, Geffen Records, Loud Records, SRC and Sony/Columbia. Using his expertise in marketing, Sol Guy started the first National Street Team in Canada, combining innovative marketing and promotion strategies to bring hip-hop into the mainstream of Canadian culture. He also started the International Street Team to market hip-hop globally. Guy is the co-founder of Direct Current Media and host of the TV series 4REAL. His mission is to use music, film, television and hip-hop culture as a vehicle for change, promoting empowerment for global youth.

Peace concert performers

The producer for the concert is Gary Cristall, co-founder and for many years director of the Vancouver Folk Festival.

Holly Near is a unique combination of entertainer, teacher and activist. She was a major figure speaking out in opposition to the Vietnam War and supporting the GI Movement opposing the Vietnam War. An immense vocal talent, Near's career as a singer has been profoundly defined by an unwillingness to separate her passion for music from her passion for human dignity. She is a skilled performer and an outspoken ambassador for peace who brings to the stage an integration of world consciousness, spiritual discovery and theatricality. Near's strength and versatility as a performer has led to creative collaborations with such artists as Ronnie Gilbert, Pete Seeger, Arlo Guthrie, Mercedes Sosa, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Inti-Illimani, Bonnie Raitt, Cris Williamson and Linda Tillery. Near's portrait hangs at the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, along with those of other social-change artists, including Paul Robeson, Marion Anderson, Pete Seeger, Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, Joan Baez, Harry Belafonte and Woody Guthrie.



"Country" Joe McDonald was the leader and lead singer of the 1960s rock & roll group Country Joe and the Fish. He started his career busking on Berkeley, California's, famous Telegraph Avenue in the early '60s.

Country Joe has recorded 33 albums and has written hundreds of songs over a career spanning 40 years. He and Barry Melton co-founded Country Joe and The Fish, which became a pioneer psychedelic band with their eclectic performances at The Avalon, Fillmore, Monterey Pop Festival and Woodstock. Their best-known song is I Feel Like I'm Fixin to Die Rag, a black comedy novelty song about the Vietnam War, whose familiar chorus – "One, two, three, what are we fighting for?" – is well known to the Woodstock generation and Vietnam vets of the 1960s and 1970s.

In 2004, Country Joe reformed some original members of Country Joe and The Fish to the Country Joe Band, comprised of Bruce Barthol, David Bennett Cohen and Gary "Chicken" Hirsh. The band toured Los Angeles, Berkeley, Bolinas, Sebastopol, Grants Pass, Eugene, Portland and Seattle. They then made a 10-stop tour of the United Kingdom and played at the Isle of Wight and London. A New York tour followed, which included a Woodstock reunion performance followed by an appearance at the New York State Museum in Albany. Returning to the West Coast, the band played in Marin and Mendocino Counties, the World Peace Music Awards in San Francisco and at the Oakland Museum as part of an exhibit on the Vietnam War.

In the spring of 2005, McDonald joined a larger protest against California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed budget cuts at the California state capital. In the fall of 2005, political commentator Bill O'Reilly compared McDonald, a Navy veteran, to Cuban communist dictator Fidel Castro, remarking on McDonald's involvement in Cindy Sheehan's protests against the Iraq War.

Rosalie Sorrels' singing voice has been described by one critic as one of the most wonderful voices in American music, an instrument as mellow and finely-aged as an antique viola. Sorrels was at the Newport Folk Festival in 1966. In recognition of her role as a creator of and col-

laborator in the American culture of the second half of the twentieth century, the University of California at Santa Cruz has set up a Rosalie Sorrels Archive as part of its Beat Generation Archives. The University of Idaho awarded Sorrels an honorary doctorate of fine arts in 2000. In 2001 the Boise Peace Quilt Project presented her with a peace quilt, adding her name to the distinguished list of workers for peace and justice who have been presented with quilts. Sorrel has recorded more than 20 albums and written three books, including Way Out in Idaho, published in honor of the Idaho centenary, a monumental collection of songs, stories, pictures and recipes gathered over the course of three years spent travelling around her home state and listening to its people.

Utah Phillips is a labour organizer, folk singer, storyteller, poet and self-described "Golden Voice" of the Great Southwest He describes the struggles of labour unions and the power of direct action. He often promotes the industrial workers of the world in his music, actions and words. Phillips served the United States army for three years beginning in 1956. Witnessing the devastating effects of the post Korean War in Korea greatly influenced his social and political thinking. Phillips ran for the U.S. senate as a candidate of Utah's Peace and Freedom Party in 1968. After leaving Utah in the late '60s, he came to Saratoga Springs, NY, where he was befriended by the folk community at the Caffe Lena coffee house, where he became a staple performer throughout that decade.

In 1991 Phillips recorded an album of song, poetry and short stories entitled I've Got to Know in one take, inspired by his anger at the first Gulf war. The album includes his first composition Enola Gay, written about the US's atomic attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He was nominated for a Grammy Award for his work with Ani DiFranco. Phillips has become an elder statesman for the folk music community and a keeper of stories and songs that might otherwise have passed into obscurity. He is also a member of the great "Traveling Nation," the community of hobos and railroad bums that populates the mid-west US along the rail lines, and he is an important keeper of their history and culture. Phillips hosted his own weekly radio show, Loafer's Glory: The Hobo Jungle of the Mind.

Maryem Tollar is a splendidly-versatile artist with an impressive resume that spans world, pop and classical music. Possessed with a voice that has been hailed as one of the wonders of the modern world, she performs regularly as part of Jesse Cook's ensemble. She is a featured vocalist in Christos Hatzis' operas and was nominated for a Dora Award for her role in Constantinople. She is also the co-founder of the Juno-nominated world music ensemble, Maza Meze and the Arabic vocal duo Doula. Tollar will be performing along with her peace activist uncle and poet Ehab Lotayef. They recently collaborated on an ambitious concert at Glenn Gould studio, featuring contemporary music, poetry and images inspired by events in the Middle East.

Ehab Lotayef, writer, photographer, activist and engineer was born in Egypt and grew up moving between countries and cultures to finally settle in Montreal in 1989. Ehab writes poetry in both Arabic and English. He is also a songwriter collaborating frequently with Toronto's composer/performer Maryem Toller. Ehab is also a playwright; his play Crossing Gibraltar was produced by the CBC in 2005.

Ehab travelled to Iraq in 2003 after the war and spent three weeks in the "liberated" country, talking to people, taking photos and writing about what he saw to convey the reality to the Canadian people without distortion or manipulation. In January of 2005, Ehab travelled to occupied Palestine where he lived the occupation, sieges, road blocks and the check points with the indigenous population and monitored (in no official way) the presidential elections. In December of 2005, he travelled to Iraq again to speak out in the name of Canadian Muslims and Arabs for the CPT hostages.

Ember Swift has been performing since she was ten years old. She started writing songs when she was nine and performed her original work for the first time in grade eight (at age 13).

Throughout high school, she was also heavily involved in both school-based and community-based environmental activism. After high school, Ember moved to Ottawa, Ontario, and pursued her university education. She also lived on the Quebec side in Hull for a year, which solidified her bilingualism.

Ember continued to perform live in the Ottawa region for two years before transferring to the University of Toronto in 1995. She immersed herself in the open stages and small cafes and was very quick to generate interest and an audience, all the while maintaining her schooling as a self-described "side project." During this time, she met several fellow artists, including her now integral bandmate Lyndell Motngomery.

In 1997, after having developed a four-piece band, Ember and crew headed on their first tour to the East Coast of Canada. In 1998, Ember graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in East Asian Studies. The formation of her independent record label, Few'll Ignite Sound, in 1997 highlighted an entirely different side of Ember's personality: the geek. Throughout the six years of operating this business, Ember became a self-described "business head" who found a love for accounting, business and computing. In 2003, Ember started working with Fleming & Associates, a booking agency out of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Finally, in 2004, she began working with RAM Management, a management company out of Montreal, Canada.

Alan Rinehart has made many contributions to the guitar world as a performer, teacher and music editor. He is a co-founder of the Vancouver Guitar Quartet which became a regular part of the Vancouver and Western Canadian music scene in the late 1980's with many concert and radio appearances including a broadcast concert on CBC's Arts National and enthusiastically acclaimed performances as featured artists in the host pavilion at Expo 86. After a hiatus of a number of years, the Quartet reformed in 1996 and has recently released its debut recording Estampas. Rinehart was a faculty member of the music schools at UBC and Vancouver Community College from 1983 to 2003. He currently lives in the West Kootenays.

Bessie Wapp is a theatre maker, musician and educator raised in the Kootenays and based in Vancouver. Since 1993, Wapp has been an associate artist/artistic director with the stilt dance theatre company Mortal Coil, creating and performing original works for all ages across North America and in Europe, and directing the annual "Ghost Train" Halloween performances in Stanley Park. Since 1995, Bessie has been a singer/percussionist with Eastern European music ensemble Zeellia.

Wapp is in Nelson this summer premiering Hello, I Must Be Going at the Nelson Fine Arts Centre. Bessie created the new one-woman-show with her mother, writer/visual artist Judy Wapp and writer/director Nicola Harwood. Through the women's voices of her Jewish ancestry, Bessie portrays four generations driven to flee wherever they were because of war.

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Love and politics

FILMS WORTH WATCHING *Robert Alstead*

CULTURE

Connie Nielson as Anna in *The Situation*.

With *The Situation*, director Philip Haas has set his sights high. Billed as the first dramatic feature to come out of the US about the occupation of Iraq, it aims to offer a new perspective that goes beyond the media coverage and string of excellent documentaries, such as *Iraq In Fragments* and *My Country, My Country* (both Oscar-nominated), about the quagmire, or "situation," as everyone refers to it, in Iraq.

The story loosely follows Anna (Connie Nielson), a female news-hound investigating a story about US soldiers who have thrown a couple of Iraqi teenagers off a bridge, resulting in the drowning death of one of them. Not only does Anna provide a troubled lens through which we view events, but she is plugged into the network of connections that links the various characters. Her interpreter, for instance, is the son of a diplomat who is trying to negotiate a cushy, diplomatic position in Australia from her CIA boyfriend (Damian Lewis) in exchange for information. The diplomat is also secretly helping a local power monger, called the Sheik, to undermine a local resistance leader.

In the absence of any civil order – the police force is populated by thugs – unlikely allegiances and risky deals abound. In fact, a central point at issue is the suggestion that the Americans have responded to the problems in Iraq too simplistically, as depicted by Dan's struggle to persuade his co-workers to build bridges to moderate Iraqis, such as Rafeeq, a respected veteran of the Iran-Iraq war, instead of lumping them in with radical insurgents.

The Situation was shot in Morocco and with its sandy, parched landscape achieves a realistic look. It also makes good use of a mixed US and Arab cast and despite moments of stilted dialogue, captures the air of hopelessness and nervous exhaustion in Baghdad.

However, there is a weakness at its centre. There is a love triangle-thing going on between Anna, Dan and her sensitive Iraqi photographer (Mido Hamada in an overly-muted role), which is poorly drawn-out and adds little to the dramatic proceedings. Also, at the end of the film, I had the sense that events in Iraq are now more dangerous and more confusing than are portrayed here.

Perhaps it might have been better for Haas to have waited until the dust settled. If it ever does. (*The Situation* screens at the Vancouver International Film Centre, 1181 Seymour Street at Davie, until June 7.)

A dramatic reconstruction of war-torn Baghdad in Philip Haas' *The Situation*.

In spite of its title, *God Grew Tired of Us* is a story of hope. The Lost Boys of Sudan were young men who walked more than a thousand gruelling miles to escape government death squads in war-torn Sudan. In 2001, a decade after their flight, 3,800 of the 12,000 survivors who were living in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya were given the chance of a lifetime: a fresh start in the US.

Christopher Quinn's documentary, winner of both the Audience Award and Grand Jury prize at Sundance last year, follows three young men as they leave their close-knit Christian community to embark on a new life where simple things that we take for granted – electricity, flushing water and Santa Claus – are alien. Initially, the film is part educational piece and part fish-out-of-water type comedy, with gentle jokes made at the boys' expense as they enter a new world. In one scene, they are shown eating the butter and sugar from the in-flight meal, with one of the boys remarking that he doesn't like airline food.

As we follow them over the course of almost four years, their initial exhilaration is tempered by a sense of deep-seated homesickness and unfavourable comparisons between their new, minimum-wage lifestyles in the US and their previous lives in Kakuma. People are less friendly, they say. Although at one point, police tell the boys not to walk in large groups because they are threatening the neighbours, the film largely avoids the thorny subject of racism. At a Lost Boys' reunion, there's also a hint that some of the boys are slipping off the straight and narrow. The film doesn't gloss over these things, but for the sake of the story it doesn't dwell on them either. Instead, it gives credit to the main characters whose positive attitude and perseverance enabled them to rebuild their lives and provide inspiration to others.

One other film to look out for this month is *Jindabyne* (due out June 15), a psychological drama by Ray Lawrence (*Lantana*) starring Laura Linney and Gabriel Byrne. When Stewart (Byrne) goes on a fishing trip with some of his Aussie mates, they discover a drowned aboriginal woman. Instead of reporting it, they choose to continue their weekend and inform authorities later, a decision that has regrettable consequences.

Robert Alstead's documentary, You Never Bike Alone*, featuring Vancouver's critical masses, is out on DVD at www.youneverbikealone.com.*

Star gazing

TWENTY SOMETHING *Ishi Dinim*

Who knew the centre of the universe would look like this? I bet you're just as continually surprised as I am by your own *unique* circumstances – each of us a constellation, with varied gravitational pulls, existing within a known system within an even larger unknown. What do we know really of our reality… the things we get to witness, the pain, the joy and the mystery?

The news becomes real to us. Although it touches us emotionally, is it

any more real than the stories that never reach us? Our awareness of our realities is totally limited by our experience of it. Everything happens; the tree falls in the forest whether we're there to hear it or not. The genocide continues. The child is born. It all happens again.

I open the paper, look at the web, turn on the TV and the world expands. Still, the centre is here. Deep sorrow swells from a 9/11 or school shooting; grief-stricken attention focuses in. Why are we only sensitive to those deaths? Why those and not the Darfuris or the missing women or the prisoners of torture? Does our empathy expand only when overwhelmed with narrative?

Imagine a news story detailing the personal stories of the faceless, dark masses; it would be like discovering a new solar system. Would corporate media ever desire to tell the journey of a mother in a refugee camp, a child soldier, a bombing victim in Iraq? It might bring us too close. The victim gaining a personality is what separates most stories, the difference between reading a daily death toll or a detailed account of one specific life.

When a First Worlder dies, we see their face, hear their story and know that they really were someone that mattered. When a bomb kills 32 Third Worlders, it is only 32 unknowns, disconnected. It might as well have happened in another galaxy.

I truly believe that films can change lives, and I love all kinds of them. They can positively alter a person or be detrimental. In the real centre of the universe, mine of course, I help make movies. My proximity to movie-making has shown me the excesses of big-budget Hollywood and the struggle of HIV-dying Africa: being on set and smelling the money burn and then standing in a village on the other side of the planet knowing where it needs to go. This strange luck, a window into what could be – another reality series about a rich celebrity or a reality series about some nobody trying to come up with their next meal.

Quotes:

The contempt for law and the contempt for the human consequence of law-breaking go from the bottom to the top of American society.

– Margaret Mead

Washing one's hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful.

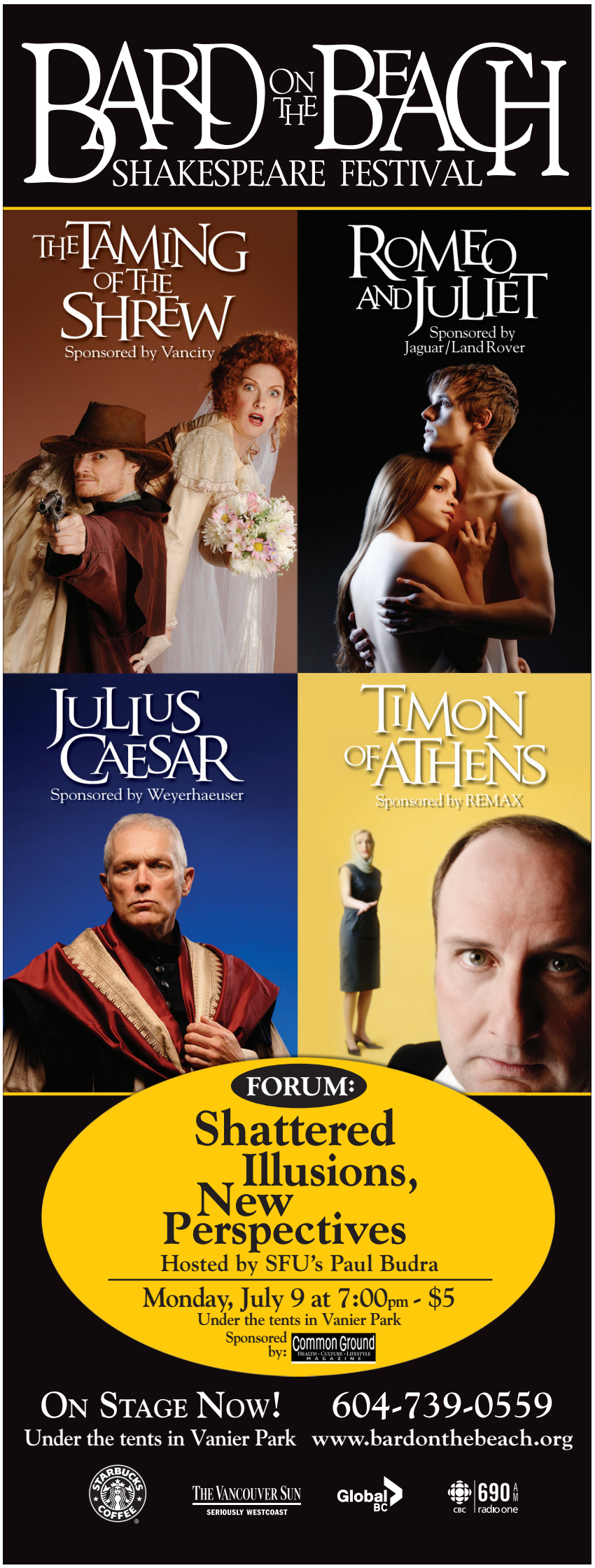
– Paulo Freire

Web:

www.mnftiu.cc/mnftiu.cc/war.html (*Get Your War on*)

Ishi graduated from Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in 2001, with a BFA major in photography. He makes films, collects cacti and ponders many things. Currently he is trying to figure out what to do with the rest his life. contactishi@yahoo.ca

Waiting to hear echoes back…



Shakespeare's timeless insights

by Diana King

For more than four centuries, Shakespeare's plays have been hailed for their insights into the human journey. This year's forum at *Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival* explores a common thread; each play portrays a character who casts aside preconceived notions to gain a more realistic understanding of the world. SFU professor Dr. Paul Budra will lead an examination of how Shakespeare's characters, and his audiences, have their illusions shattered and replaced with new perspectives.

"One of Shakespeare's favourite devices is to have his characters enter with certain expectations and then have to find a new, unexpected way forward. It is this progress of the character through the narrative that makes the stories so compelling," Dr. Budra explains.

One of Shakespeare's favourite devices is to have his characters enter with certain expectations and then have to find a new, unexpected way forward.

At the beginning of *Romeo and Juliet,* Romeo is mindlessly mimicking the romantic fashions set by the Italian poet Petrarch; he worships his unapproachable lady from afar and peppers his language with fashionable, if meaningless, oxymorons, such as "feather of lead." His behaviour is clichéd and embarrassing and, like Benvolio, we are meant to laugh at this romantic stereotype. However, when he meets Juliet, Romeo throws away that persona. Immediately his language changes – "She doth teach the torches to burn bright" – and a whole new perspective arises from this formerly-pretentious teenager. He must create his own form of romantic love.

Juliet also changes. Until she met Romeo, she was a dutiful daughter. After their encounter, she takes control of their relationship, curbing Romeo's rash behaviour and arranging their hasty marriage. She becomes the direct opposite of the illusive, passive love object celebrated in Petrarch's poetry. She finds a strength she didn't know she had when she abandons the roles imposed upon her by her family and society.

In *Romeo and Juliet*, we also see a good example of how Shakespeare masterfully shifted audience expectations. Today we describe this play as a tragedy, but in Elizabethan times a tragedy consisted of a story about a great king who fell. It was never the story of two young teenagers trying to get into bed together. That was the plot line of the typical comedy. And, in fact, the first half of this play *is* like a comedy; there are funny servants and jokes about sex. But when Mercutio's blood is spilled, the comedy becomes a tragedy and the audience can only watch in horror as it closes inevitably around the young lovers.

Julius Caesar is another case of Shakespeare frustrating audience expectations. The Elizabethans were fascinated by the assassination of Caesar and saw it as a pivotal moment in history. While they believed in monarchical government, they could not help but admire the Roman republic that Caesar was killed to protect. Were the assassins heroes or traitors? Freedom fighters or Judases? Shakespeare refuses to offer easy answers. Who is the audience to sympathize with? Caesar is presented as a towering man who is proud but physically frail; does he really want to be king? Brutus is an idealist, but totally impractical. Mark Anthony is effective, but can we trust a demagogue who stirs the Roman people to riot? Budra notes that, "Shakespeare's capacity for rendering complex characters necessitated that he take nuanced stances on complex issues. There are no easy answers because there are no simple characters and vice versa. This is why we can reinterpret the plays again and again."

The domestic comedy *The Taming of the Shrew* centres around Kate and Petruchio who start out with definite reasons for avoiding or pursuing marriage. They too begin as stereotypes, but become more complex as the play progresses. At that time in history, women were seen as wives, widows or whores; those are the role models that Kate has grown up with. It is all that she can see and she rejects them. However, she eventually abandons her selfish antagonism for the more imaginative, nuanced world of loving relationships.

For a richer understanding of the characters and the shifts they undergo throughout each production, join SFU's Paul Budra, education consultant Mary Hartman and members of the Bard company at Bard*, Monday, July 9, 7 PM. Tickets $5. For more information on the 2007 season, visit www.bardonthebeach.org or call 604-739-0559.*

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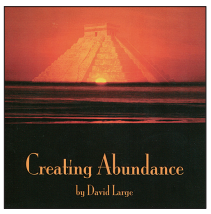

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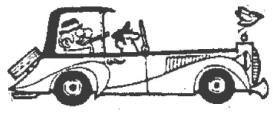

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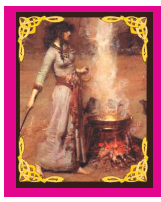

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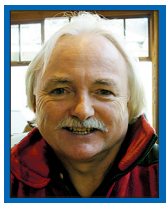

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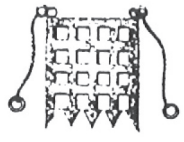

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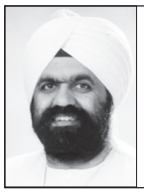

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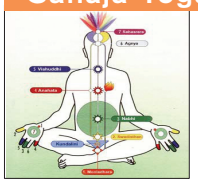

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Wednesday programs take a summer vacation for July and August, and resume in September

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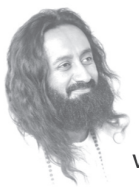

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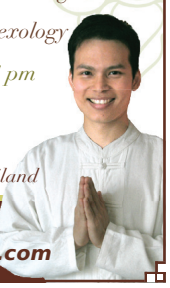

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Datebook

2007 Bologna Summer Program for Cooperative Studies: University of Bologna, Italy. Vancouver sessions, SFU lecture series, June 25-29. University of Bologna, July 2-13. Visit www.bcca.coop for information.

JUN 3
DRU Yoga Workshop "Move Toward Balance," White Rock, 12:30-4:30pm. Teacher Training: Applications for 2008 druevents@shaw.ca 604-936-3255. (Same contact for White Rock workshop.)

JUN 5
Jakes's Gift, a tour-de-force honouring D-Day and the power of remembrance, presented by Canadian Memorial Church. Julia Mackey "…is on the brink of stardom while her work becomes etched in the Canadian psyche." Tuesday, 7:30pm, 15th/Burrard, Tix at door, veterans free. www.juliamackey.com

JUN 7
Circles Within Circles: Channelled Wisdom from Spirit CD launch with artists Jane Kennard and Joanna Pettit. Sponsored by Banyen Books. 6:30-8pm, Ayurveda, 3636 West 4th Ave. Info 250-386-0826.

JUN 9
Shamanic Drumming & Dreaming Circle: 7pm. Insight/healing from your Nature Spirit guardians. Vancouver Multi-Cultural Centre, 1254, W. 7th. By donation. Vancouver Shamanic Healing Circles. 604-418-9636, www.shamanichealing.info

JUN 9
Compassionate Communication Small Group Workshop. John Morrier RPC teaches practical techniques to communicate empathetically and resolve conflict in relationships. 604-731-9262, john.morrier@telus.net.

JUN 9 & 10
Astral Travel with Ellie Drew, www.consciouschange.org, Fri: 7-9:30pm - Sat & Sun: 10am-4:30pm. Complete Workshop $288 (Fri intro $25). Info/registration: John ccss@aebc.com

JUN 22-24
Vancouver 9/11 Truth Conference: Speakers include Webster Tarpley, Prof. Steven E. Jones, Connie Fogal, Dr. William Deagle, Prof. Keven Barrett, Barrie Zwicker. Fri evening: $25, Sat & Sun: $50 each day, Wknd: $95. Maritime Labour Centre. www.V911Truth.org for details.

JUN 23
WOLFSONG Summer Solstice - Medicine Wheel Chanting Circle, Saturday7-10pm. Participate singing shared sacred healing chants. N. American style drumming, cedar flute, didgeridoo. At Vancouver Multi-Cultural Centre, 1254 W. 7th. By donation. Vancouver Shamanic Healing Circles. 604.418.9636. www.shamanichealing.info

JUN 23
Summer Solstice "Chanting in the Round" with the MantraVani Orchestra, St. Marks Church, 1805 Larch, Vancouver. Chants & Sacred Songs, 8pm, $20/advance, $15/seniors, $25/door. Banyen Books, Hilife Records, Utopia Gifts (N. Van). Info@healingvoices.net www.healingvoices.net

JUN 25
Free info evening for "Silent Power" a 10-day ceremonial intensive on Gabriola Island. Centre for Peace, 1825 W. 16th Ave., Meditation Room. 1-877-329-8668, info@shamanicmedicine.ca (See Aug 10 Silent Power listing for info.)

JUL 3, 5, 9, 11, 16, 18
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JUL 4-8
Big Peace Conference: 2nd Annual Our Way Home Event & Reunion, Castlegar, BC. Meet Daniel Ellsberg (Pentagon Papers), Arun Gandhi, Tom Hayden, 40 major speakers/performers. (see page 24) Tickets/details: 250-352-1187 www.ourwayhomereunion.com

JUL 13-15
30th Annual Vancouver Folk Music Festival Jericho Beach Park. Early bird tickets on sale until June 16. Info & tickets at www.thefestival.bc.ca or call: 604-602-9798/800-883-3655.

JUL 13-15
Foot Reflexology Introduction commences certificate weekend course. Intro: $10, Course $295. Pacific Institute of Reflexology, (604) 875-8818, www.pacificreflexology.com.

AUG 10-13
Australian Bush Flower Essences Workshops - Astrology and Bush Essences 10th ~ Level 1: 11 & 12th ~ Women's Wellbeing and Bush Essences 13th. Facilitator - Linn Wiggins Vancouver. Contact Lori - www.ausangels.com or 1-866-477-6779.

AUG 10-19
"Silent Power" a 10-day ceremonial intensive in nature to heal the past, develop discipline, reclaim your power & regain energy. Presented by the Institute of Shamanic Medicine. Gabriola Island, BC. (See June 25 listing for free info evening.) 1-877-329-8668, info@shamanicmedicine.ca

SATURDAYS

Holistic Healing Fair: Third Saturday of every month. AWAKENING HEART-15177 Russell Ave-White Rock. 10-4pm. Free Admission. 604-535-6603 or www.emergingpathway.ca

SUNDAYS

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International Spiritualist Alliance: #201-317 Columbia Street, New West, 604-521-6336. Sunday services, 11am. Rev. Joyce Tarvin, 604-433-6663, www.isacanada.ca
See Resource Directory ad.

Mountaintop Unity Find a positive New Thought approach to life at Unity! Sundays 10:30am, John Braithwaite Community Centre, 145 West 1st, North Vancouver. 604-787-1477, www.unitymountaintop.ca

MONDAYS

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TUESDAYS

Pranic Healing Clinics: Non-touch energy healing. By donation. Tuesdays 11am-3pm and 6pm-9pm. 2950 Laurel St, Vancouver. Last clinic June 12 until Sept. www.pranichealing.ca/vancouver

Reflexology Student Clinic sessions, only $18. Evenings only. By appointment. Pacific Institute of Reflexology. 604-875-8818, www.pacificreflexology.com

WEDNESDAYS

Speaking Circles: Learn to speak naturally in front of groups, transforming anxiety into the excitement of creative expression through relational presence. 7:30-10pm, Dave 604-738-5728.

Hawaiian Medicine Circle: 7 pm. Hawaiian guided meditation, Sharing the Aloha, tea and snacks afterwards with like-minded people. $10 donation. At Hale Ola, a place of Healing, 1215 Madison Ave., Burnaby. 604-431-7474. Call Kumu Kaimana.

Children of War fundraiser: Chai Gallery at East is East hosts a fundraiser for Children of War, featuring local musicians & traditional dancers. Every Wed. evening, 7:30pm – 1:30am, 3243 W. Broadway. $25/door

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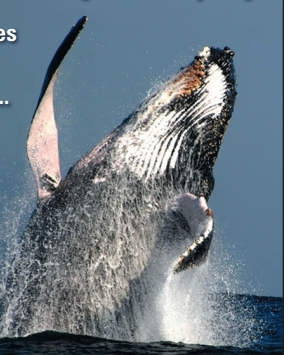

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THURSDAYS

Pranic Healing Clinic: Non-touch energy healing. By donation. Thursdays 10am-2pm. West Vancouver United Church, 2062 Esquimalt Ave. Last clinic June 14 until Sept.
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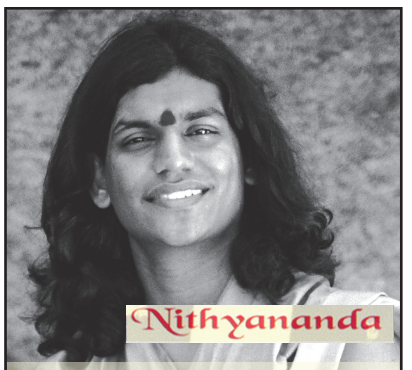

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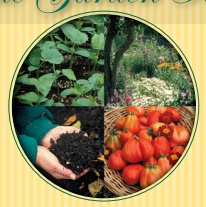

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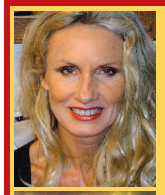

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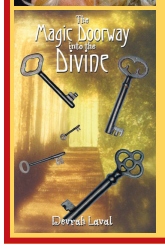

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ON THE GARDEN PATH *Carolyn Herriot*

After a long, wet winter spent cursing all the rain, the sun is back again, which means the garden is drying out. It's a challenge to stay on top of watering once the weather warms up, so getting into a regular watering schedule is important.

Rules for outdoor watering

When it's cool at night, water in the morning. Young plants don't enjoy being cold at night. Cold, wet soils lead to fungal problems. If a plant is seriously wilted, water it regardless of the time of day. A one-inch depth of water at a time is sufficient.

Tip: To measure this, check how long your system takes to fill a tin can to a depth of one inch. That is the length of time you should use your system for each watering. One good weekly watering is better than brief daily waterings. Roots seek water. Water penetration encourages roots to grow more deeply. Surface roots are vulnerable to desiccation. Put drought-resistant plants in areas that are difficult to water.

Tip: Group plants with similar watering requirements together.

Did you know?

An existing border with mulch can go seven days between waterings. Sandy soils need more watering than clay soils. Water runs off slopes and berms very quickly without soaking in. Terracing helps prevent water run-off. Lawns are major consumers of water.

Tip: Why not plant an eco-meadow of yarrow, speedwell, clover and English daisy where a lawn struggles to thrive? It needs very little water and no fertilization and looks beautiful in bloom. Best yet, it only has to be mowed every four weeks! Mulching on steep slopes, windy sites and between exposed plants reduces evaporation, protects plants and smothers weeds.

Overwetting?

Overwatering wastes water. Many plants require no more water than Mother Nature supplies, so gardeners often lavish their gardens with regular waterings unnecessarily. Half the water we put on our lawns is lost to runoff, when really it takes only one inch of water per week to ensure deeper root systems, which fare best in periods of hot, dry weather.

Having said that, it's important to remember that there's no such thing as a drought-tolerant plant until it's become well established. All plants need regular watering from the time they are planted until they are well rooted, but most take just one growing season to establish.

Slow-growing trees and shrubs can take two or more seasons. Watering newly-planted shrubs often and lightly encourages roots to grow close to the surface, making them vulnerable to drought. Deeper root systems mean plants become drought tolerant once they are established and can be weaned off watering to the point where natural rainfall satisfies their needs.

Tips:

- Avoid excessive water loss from evaporation by watering in the early morning (ideally before 9 AM).
- Avoid windy days to prevent wastage from wind drift.
- Add organic soil mulches to increase the water-holding capacity of the soil and to lock in moisture.

Water is not an infinite resource, so by using it sparingly we help ensure there's enough for us all. A brown lawn, which recovers in fall, is a small sacrifice to make to conserve water.

From A Year on the Garden Path: A 52-Week Organic Gardening Guide *by Carolyn Herriot. Second edition $24.95. Available from your favourite bookstore or order online at www.earthfuture.com/gardenpath.*

On Track Zodiac

JUNE 2007 *Adrien Dilon*

ARIES (Mar 21 – Apr 19)
Whether your complexion is ruddy or rosy and you turn a few heads, you will possibly be "butting heads" with Mars in Aries now. While that may possibly ignite conflict for some of you, you might just use that energy to your advantage. You are happy making waves and progress.

TAURUS (Apr 20 – May 21)
Social scenarios make for some great opportunities full of career surprises. Don't be too startled by the speed at which things come to fruition. Feast your eyes and ears on new things while gathering with friends. Your timing will prove to be impeccable if you follow your passion.

GEMINI (May 22 – Jun 20)
Uranus kicks up some dust with colossal speed while other powerful planets create a soft breeze with which to land. You could, however, find yourself in the middle of a torrent. Emotions will run the gamut from elation to its opposite. Able to apply yourself, you should become intensely creative as a result.

CANCER (Jun 21 – Jul 22)
Gather together your plans and strategies before mid-month. It's all in the details. With your keen senses and quick mind, focus on getting the job done. Address your true feelings as you make revisions and changes. Most of what you ponder will surface, begging solutions over the weeks ahead.

LEO (Jul 23 – Aug 22)
A few months remain before you can comprehend the results of your diligent efforts. What doesn't enlighten you makes you stronger. Your faith, as well as your accounts receivable, may have been tested to the max. Things should go more smoothly in the months to come. "Be here now" has never had more meaning.

VIRGO (Aug 23 – Sep 22)
Your understanding and sympathy for others are greater than ever. If you consider furthering or beginning an education in your chosen field, you will inspire students and peers alike. Your display of tolerance and perceptiveness won't go unnoticed.

LIBRA (Sep 23 – Oct 22)
You have discovered a more straightforward attitude within and are more self-directed than usual. No pussy- footing around for you as your decision-making and dexterity bring a sense of order and clarity to your business transactions. Conquer the heart of any audience.

SCORPIO (Oct 23 – Nov 21)
Are you still searching and feeling misunderstood? Perhaps you are giving off one type of energy while concealing the real you. If a supportive relationship ends now, you will need to balance yourself with more self- expression. These are powerful times for you and depth of character will be your reward.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
If you find people challenging, what is it that is being challenged? Is it your ego or your heart that is involved in your decisions? What is the basis of your search? Key issues are apparent now as you make huge inroads in your workplace. Upheaval brings awareness.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Your potential for success is great, but it will come with effort. Knowing when to act and put your best foot forward will be as essential as an alchemist using proper measure. Positive thoughts and an attitude adjustment will facilitate your self-healing.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20 – Feb 19)
Do you desire change or are you having a change of desire? Moments of true identity will shift your awareness when you least expect it. You are, in many ways, "going home" and discoveries about your true nature and what you feel you've been missing for years now come to light.

PISCES (Feb 20 – Mar 20)
You discovered a secret to the way the universe unfolds. Not only have you become confident, but you hold yourself in the highest esteem after many events that have perhaps brought you to your knees. You can weave your own brand of magic into present and future events.

Adrien Dilon is a clairvoyant consultant and author with 32 years of experience in astrology, multi-media art and healing. Adrien.Dilon@gmail.com, www.HeartLightCentre.com

Mmmmm… Tastes like yummy!

Smoked Bratwurst
Serving Suggestion

Other vegetarian options:

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Herb Chick'n Nuggets

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Vegetarian Meatballs

Chick'n Schnitzel

Ham & Swiss Cutlet

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